



# MacAddict

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ON THIS MONTH'S  
DISC!

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Shareware Apps!

### LAB-TESTED

### SCANNER FACE-OFF!



We Test 11 Affordable Scanners

### REVIEWED:

- AirPort Express music streamer
- Minolta DiMAGE A2 8-megapixel camera
- LaCie d2 dual-layer DVD burner
- Apple's new 40GB iPod and 14 more...



### HOW TO:

- Create a Sherlock Search Channel
- Create Fine Art Using Your Inkjet Printer
- Change Your User Name in Mac OS X







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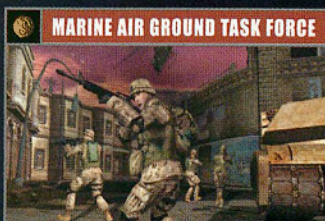


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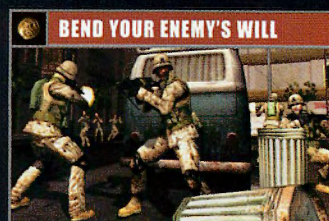


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## features

Sure, Adobe, Macromedia, Microsoft, and other big-name developers create the bulk of the software we use everyday—but an army of independent code-crafters are turning out more top-notch shareware and freeware apps than ever before. Here are 100 of the best. **by Jack Miller**

**Shareware  
Explosion!  
page 20**



## 32 Scanner Wars

Can you get high-quality output from a budget scanner? We dusted off our slides and prints and pitted 11 low-cost scanners against each other to see for ourselves. Find out which ones reign victorious and which fall by the wayside. **by Jeffy Milstead**

## 40 The Well-Equipped iPod

No new technology has inspired the imaginations of accessory manufacturers quite like the iPod. We've rounded up more than 60 of the best cases, adapters, FM transmitters, and more to help you pamper your 'Pod. **by John Poultney**



## how to

## 66 Ask Us

You wanted to know how to stop iTunes file bloat, why your pics look blurry in iPhoto 4, how to create an MS-DOS disk image (we won't ask why), and how to make a FireWire drive cross-platform compatible. Now we tell ya.

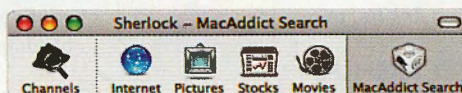
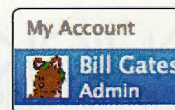
## 68 Create Fine Art and Novelty Prints from Your Inkjet

Printing photos on plain-old photo paper is so pedestrian. Wouldn't you rather see your artwork framed on canvas, decorating silk fabric, or stamped on someone's butt cheek? You know you would. **by Kris Fong**



## 72 Change Your User Name

Whether you now cringe at the stupid user name you gave your Mac or whether you're simply tired of that name, you can change it—including your short name—with a little know-how (and some nerves of steel). **by Kris Fong**



## 74 Create a Sherlock Channel

Google is great when you're searching for stuff far and wide, but if you want to limit your searching to a particular site, use Sherlock instead. Of course, you need a Sherlock channel to do the deed—here's how to build one. **by Johnathon Williams**



## every month

**08 Editor's Page**

Editor in Chief Rik Myslewski takes on U.S. Senator Orrin G. Hatch—and it ain't pretty.

**10 Get Info**

A new iPod already? Believe it—and it's just in time to be the subject of MacFixIt's "Bug of the Month" column. Also read about the future of the iPod, share a rousing yawn at Sony's attempt to recreate the Walkman phenomenon with its new digital music player, see what's new in chat security, and find out who's putting the PAN in pants, the UG in MUG, and Doom 3 on your Mac.

**47 Reviews**

- 58 **AirPlus Xtreme G DI-624** wireless broadband router
- 48 **AirPort Express** wireless broadband router and music streamer
- 60 **ArtMatic Voyager** 3D-terrain generator
- 56 **Battlefield 1942** WWII-based shooter
- 62 **BOSS** broadband office storage server
- 62 **d2 DVD±RW Double Layer** dual-layer DVD burner
- 49 **DiMage A2** 8-megapixel camera
- 59 **DWL-G650 AirPlus Xtreme G** wireless network PC card
- 58 **Internet Postage** Internet postage service
- 53 **iPod 40GB** digital-music player
- 57 **Laptop Armor** notebook case
- 54 **MFC-8220** multifunction laser printer
- 60 **Optical Mouse by Stark** mouse
- 57 **PIXIMation QTVR** software
- 50 **Pocket Video Recorder AV400** multimedia player and recorder
- 59 **Wireless Driver for Mac v3.0** wireless driver
- 52 **XIII** mission-based shooter

**64 The Hot List**

We'd spend our own hard-earned money on these products.

## QUICK TIPS

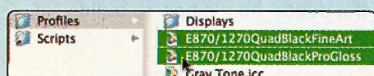
FROM THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

**➔ BUH-BYE, BLUR**

Until Apple addresses the issue, to sharpen up blurriness in iPhoto 4, click (but don't move) the Brightness slider for a temporary fix. **From Ask Us, p66.**

**➔ I SEE PROFILES**

To ensure color accuracy in your prints, download the manufacturer's ICC profile for your printer and paper combination, and install it before clicking Print. **From "Create Fine Art and Novelty Prints from Your Inkjet," p68.**

**➔ START AT THE TOP**

When creating video or other digital media projects, work at the maximum quality settings and then do your file compression at the end—this keeps your options open for different levels of compression. **From Reviews, p47.**

**➔ TAKE THE EASY WAY**

Tinkering with NetInfo Manager could render your Mac useless if you're not careful. If you really want to change your user name, create a new user account and move your stuff over to it. **From "Change Your User Name," p72.**



53



49



52



56

**94 Log Out****94 Letters**

Our intrepid readers share stories about boycotting software developers, creating an iBook car stereo, blasting bugs, and converting a PC into something Mac-like. And one even begs us for a job.

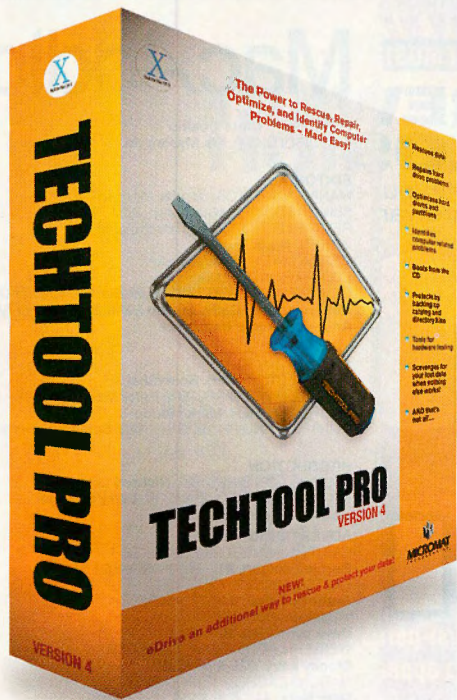
**95 Contest**

Win Epson's Stylus Photo RX600 all-in-one printer, copier, and scanner.

**96 Shut Down**

Statements on Apple's legal imbroglios take to the road.





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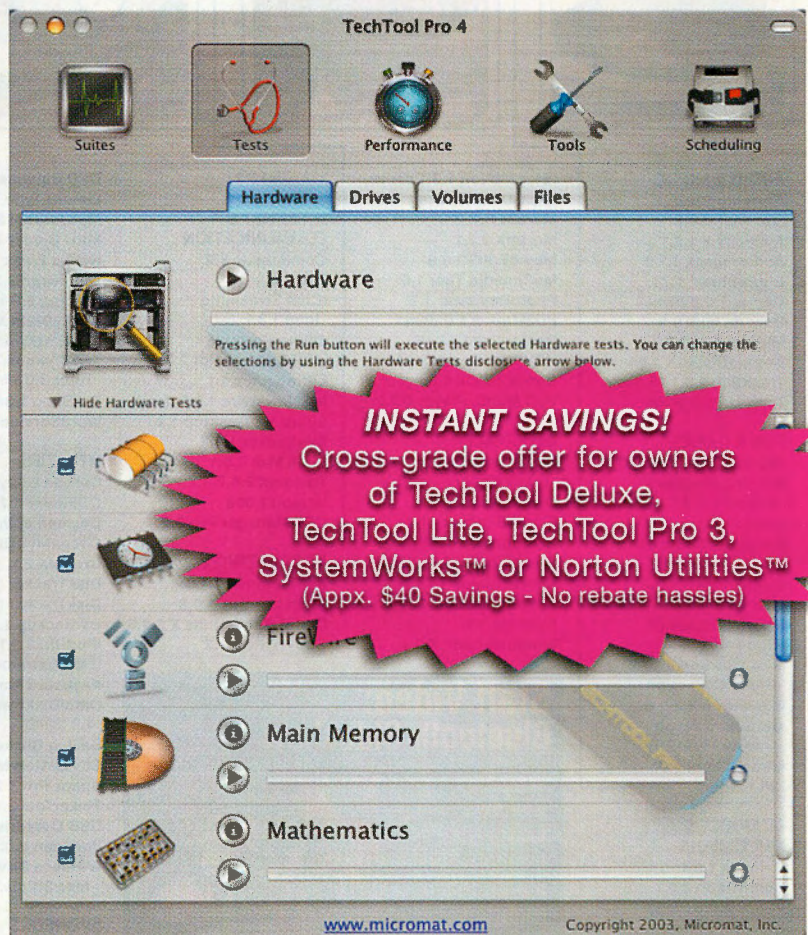
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# the disc

Stuff, stuff, and more stuff—and all of it very, very cool. This month's Disc is packed with 105 apps, most of which are featured in "Shareware Explosion!" (p20).

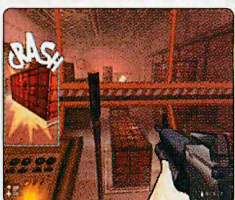
## IS3 X

Plan your next vacation to Saturn with this solar system simulator from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.



## XIII demo

Read our review (p52), and then save the world in this mission-based shooter with old-style comic-book appeal.



## Konfabulator

Before Apple's Dashboard, there was Konfabulator. Here's your chance to take the original for a spin.



## AUDIO & MUSIC

Amazing Slow Downer 2.6.8  
Audacity X 1.2.1  
Audio Hijack 2.1.3  
Blues Music 1.21  
Cantor 1.0.2 demo  
Dent du Midi 0.9  
MidiKeys 1.6b3  
StreamRipperX 1.05  
Tracktion 1.5.1.16 demo  
Tune-Up 1.0 demo

## FUN & GAMES

Big Bang Chess 1.0.2  
Burning Monkey  
Solitaire 3.0.1 demo  
Doulber Gold 1.21  
Enigma 1.3.1 demo  
EV Nova 1.0.8  
GeneForge 2 1.0.2  
Issa 1.1  
Jared, Butcher of Song 1.01  
Mac-Yun-Soft  
Game Collection  
Maelstrom X 3.0.6  
Marathon: Aleph One 20040417  
MiracleSight 1.0  
XIII 1.0 demo

## GRAPHICS & MULTIMEDIA

Celestia 1.3.1  
Chameleon 1.0.1  
eClick 1.2.5 demo  
EvoCam 3.4 trial  
Flood 1.1  
Fracture 1.2  
Gimp 2.0.3  
GraphicConverter 5.2.1  
IS3 X 1.0.1

## iStopMotion 1.3.1 demo

JPEGDeux 1.7b  
Mars24 5.2.2  
MorphX 2.7.1  
MovieEdit3D 0.9  
Multimedia Tiler 1.6  
PhotoReviewer 1.2  
PIXIMation 1.0 demo  
Poster Print 1.0a5  
QTVR Recorder 1.01  
Strata 3D CX 4.0 tryout  
VLC Media Player 0.7.2

## INTERFACE

Desktop Manager  
0.5.2rc2 beta  
DockFun! 4.6  
FinderScape 1.01  
Iconographer 2.5  
KnockoutDock 1.2  
Konfabulator 1.7.1  
SaveHollywood 1.7  
Synergy 1.1  
WindowShade X 3.1

## X-Assist 0.7

## INTERNET & COMMUNICATION

Comicastic 2.2  
Fire 1.0.3  
iChat Streaming  
Icon 1.3.1  
JiWire Portable  
Hotspot Locator 1.0  
Little Snitch 1.1  
NetNewsWire 1.0.8 demo  
Share My Desktop 1.2  
SiteSucker 1.6.3  
Snail Mail 0.5.1  
Transmit 2.6.2  
Unison 1.02a  
URL Manager Pro 3.3

## PRODUCTIVITY

Anagrammar 2.1.0  
Atom In A Box 1.0.8  
ConverterUnits X 2.4.6  
CopyWrite 2.1.2

## DVD Database X 1.3

Listen&Type X 3.0  
MacJournal 2.5.2  
Maxi Bidder 1.93  
Netflix Freak 1.2.4  
OmniGraffe 3.1.2 demo  
Sproing 2.0.1  
StickyBrain X 2.0.2 demo  
SubEthaEdit 2.0.1  
Ten Thumbs Typing  
Tutor 3.0.1 trial  
TeXShop 1.34  
WordService 2.5.1

## UTILITIES

Carbon Copy Cloner 2.3  
CDFinder 4.2.2  
Chicken of the VNC 1.3.6  
CocoaMySQL 0.5  
CronniX 2.1  
DiskTracker (Classic) 2.3  
DiskTracker (OS X) 2.3  
DV Backup 1.3.1  
iPodRip 3.3.1  
ITMS Extractor 1.0  
Keyboard Maestro 2.0b9  
OmniDiskSweeper  
1.4 demo  
Salling Clicker 2.20  
SlimBatteryMonitor 1.1  
Snapz Pro X 2.0.1  
TinkerTool 3.2.1  
USB Overdrive X 10.3  
VueScan 8.0.11  
Wireless Driver for Mac 3.1 trial

## SPONSORS

Mac-Yun-Soft Game Collection 1.0  
Strata 3D CX 4.0 tryout  
JiWire Portable  
Hotspot Locator 1.0

## Staff Video: Bluetooth Sideshow

We gave Reviews Editor Niko Coucouvanis a half-dozen Bluetooth mice, a crowd of action figures, a DV cam, a copy of iStopMotion, and a couple of hours of free time—here's what he came up with.



# MacAddict

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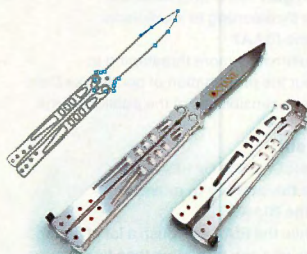
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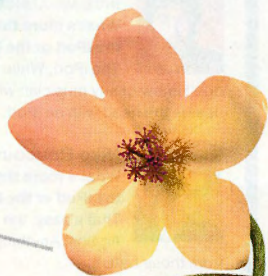
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# Hands Off My iPod!



Digital technology is revolutionizing the way we buy and listen to music—and as with any revolution, there are counterrevolutionary forces fighting to maintain the status quo. In this case, these forces are led by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), which is struggling to maintain its stranglehold on the distribution of musical creativity. Its newest ally is Senator Orrin G. Hatch (R-Utah), who wants to provide the RIAA with a new and powerful weapon: the Inducing

Infringements of Copyright Act. Write your representatives in Congress. Warn them to stop this slippery piece of legislation.

Why? Simple. If passed, this act (commonly known as the Induce Act) would broaden copyright-protection law to allow digital-music foes to file company- and industry-busting lawsuits against both manufacturers of products and distributors of information that “induce” copyright infringement. At first blush this seems reasonable—copyright protection is a good and necessary thing—but closer examination uncovers the ugly fact that the Induce Act would

## The RIAA is struggling to maintain its stranglehold on musical creativity.

allow an unscrupulous plaintiff to sue manufacturers of products such as the iPod and DVD burners, charging that those products induce infringement by providing convenient storage

and distribution of pirated music or video. Or they could sue information providers such as, well, *MacAddict*, charging that certain publications induce infringement by showing their readers how best to rip, mix, and burn.

Sound far-fetched? I don't think so—and neither does the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF). Cruise over to [www.eff.org/IP/Apple\\_Complaint.php](http://www.eff.org/IP/Apple_Complaint.php); there you'll find links to a demonstration lawsuit drawn up by EFF lawyers that spells out how a suit could easily be brought against a company for inducement—and remember that a plaintiff doesn't need to win in court to cause substantial damage to a defendant. Legal fees, distracted management, and litigation delays all take their toll. In the words of EFF's report, “Scared yet? You should be.”

Oh, and there's an interesting sidelight to Hatch's effort: In addition to his day job, Hatch moonlights as a successful singer/songwriter ([www.hatchmusic.com](http://www.hatchmusic.com)). Now, I don't claim to understand the intricacies of the U.S. Senate's conflict-of-interest rules, but you gotta admit that Orrin's drive to put a bigger stick into the hands of the RIAA smells a wee bit fishy.

Enjoy,

R.k

## coming soon: november 2004

Here's what our editors are preparing for the next issue of *MacAddict*.

Our experts will look into their crystal balls and tell you **what's coming in 2005**: Macs, Mac OS X, digital cameras, graphics cards, displays, digital audio and video, games, connectivity, and more. We're rounding up all the major **plug-ins for audio, video and graphics apps**, and will tell you which are worth your while. We'll show how to make **QuickTime Player's interface** as unique as your movies, **backup your stuff automatically** with software already on your Mac, and **master your digital camera's manual controls**. Finally, our band's rocking with **Roland's MIDI drum kit** and a virtual guitar rig—named, naturally enough, **GuitarRig**—and using the venerable **Bias Peak software studio** for mastering our pro-quality demo tape.

## STAFF RANTS

Q. What's more threatening to musicians: the iPod or the RIAA?



**Jenifer Morgan** HATCHING NEMESIS  
What's more threatening to musicians:  
the iPod or the RIAA?

The RIAA is ultimately more threatening to musicians, but the propagation of names like Orrin Hatch threatens the aesthetic sensibilities of the public at large.



**Noah Tsutsui** INCRIMINATINGLY HARD OF HEARING  
What's more threatening to musicians:  
the iPod or the RIAA?

The iPod. While the RIAA can push a lot of paper, I don't know of any musician who can take more than two whacks upside the head with an iPod.



**Niko Coucouvanis** THE INDUCER  
What's more threatening to musicians:  
the iPod or the RIAA?

That's easy: the RIAA. You mean the Redneck Idiots Against Anything, that RIAA, right? Nothing's safe from those haters.



**Mark Rosenthal** GRUMP  
What's more threatening to musicians:  
the iPod or the RIAA?

Hatch is being a drip for trying to reign in technology for such a dubious cause, but the petulant argument that we shouldn't have to pay for music is selfish, immature, and indicates that we're fundamentally a spoiled bunch.



**Peter Marshutz** BURN-ON BOY  
What's more threatening to musicians:  
the iPod or the RIAA?

Orrin Hatch and the RIAA are more threatening to musicians—and anyone who enjoys music.



**Kris Fong** RAMEN CONNOISSEUR  
What's more threatening to musicians:  
the iPod or the RIAA?

The RIAA, because they're sucking every penny from musicians to make up for lackluster album sales (brought on by the A&R cattle interested only in cloning the next pop tart). Then again, the iPod can be harmful to musicians' health since we're all starving ourselves to buy one.



**John Poultney** ORGAN GRINDER  
What's more threatening to musicians:  
the iPod or the RIAA?

Fifty years ago, John Lee Hooker had to record under several different names to make ends meet; today musicians sign predatory contracts and owe recording companies big bucks. The iPod can help bypass this mess.



**Max** 'POD REVERSE  
What's more threatening to musicians:  
the iPod or the RIAA?

Steve's right when he says, “Don't steal music,” but squashing an entire technology just 'cause some baddie might use it for shady purposes is downright un-American.





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IMAGE COURTESY OF APPLE

# The Future of the iPod

The iPod's competitors are working to dethrone the king of MP3 players. Can the 'Pod stay on top?

**T**here are portable music players, and then there's the ubiquitous iPod. Over the past three years, the iPod has slimmed down in size, bulked up in capacity, spawned colorful quintuplets, and sold as many as its top four competitors combined. Even Cary Sherman, president of the Record Industry Association of America (RIAA),

has capitulated, calling the iPod "a shining light at a very bleak time in the [music] industry."

Competitors seem resigned to the fact that they can't match the elegance, grace, and attitude of the iPod, so they're responding with lower prices on their own players while injecting them with unusual—and sometimes bizarre—features. And now that Sony

is marching on the iPod's territory, the battle between behemoths has begun.

The iPod's patented interface gives it a clear advantage over its competitors. But we all know Apple won't stop there. Improving on the iPod's interface seemed unimaginable until Apple put the control buttons on the scroll wheel itself, prompting Steve Jobs to ponder in a recent *Newsweek* article, "Why didn't we think of that before?"

So where can the iPod go from here? Plenty of places. The most obvious upgrade is storage capacity, courtesy of ever-more-capacious 1.8-inch drives from Toshiba. That company is mum on its 1.8-inch plans, but mini-er iPod minis may be possible using Toshiba's soon-to-ship 0.85-inch 2GB drive, and Seagate's new 1-inch 5GB drive may be a candidate to replace the mini's current 4GB Hitachi drive. In any case, hard drive capacities will increase, power requirements will decrease, and prices for hard drives will remain well below



that of flash memory.

Storage boosts aside, the most obvious upgrade to the iPod is a color screen. But such screens are battery killers, so we reckon Apple will bypass color LED displays and move to power-miserly OLED (organic light-emitting diode) screens. Devices that use OLED displays are still relatively primitive, but their displays are far sharper than traditional LCDs, legible at extreme angles and in bright sunlight, and self-illuminating—they require no battery-draining backlight. Give the iPod a large OLED display, and you've got the makings of a cultural tsunami: a compact, portable eBook that people would actually use. The entire text of Gabriel Garcia Marquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, for example, takes up a mere 850KB of space—a 40GB iPod can hold nearly 50,000 novels of that size. Add email syncing, a high-resolution calendar, and cool games, and you've got twice the device the Newton ever wanted to be—and the death of today's PDA.

There are also rumors of our beloved iPod giving way to a video-capable unit. Although Apple will likely keep a close eye on the success of video

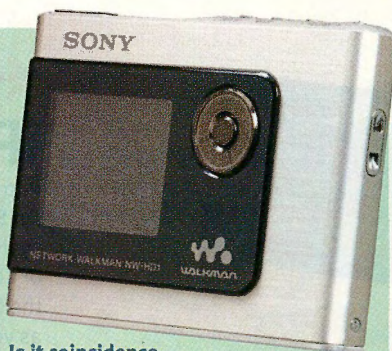
players based on Microsoft's Portable Media Center OS, we doubt that any such product is in Apple's pipeline (and if you think music piracy caused an outcry, wait until people start "sharing" movies). The iPod as a digital hub, however, is too irresistible to pass up. We doubt Apple anticipated that iPod fanatics would use third-party hacks to download RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feeds to their iPod's Notes folder—but they are. We're certain Apple isn't ignoring this trend, and we predict that iTunes will soon offer more for your iPod than just music and books. Imagine docking your iPod to get the day's headlines, your POP3 email, and the entire contents of Sunday's *New York Times Magazine* for leisurely perusal whenever you like. Add Bluetooth for phones and keyboards, and say sayonara to your PDA forever.

Apple could play it safe and continue offering more capacious iPods at lower prices, but the wizards of Cupertino thrive on staying four or five steps ahead of the competition. Today's iPod is the digital music player done right; tomorrow's may be the only handheld device you'll ever need. —Logan Decker

## THE WALKMAN STRIDES AGAIN

On the 25th anniversary of its revolutionary Walkman cassette player, Sony announced the NW-HD1, a compact 20GB digital music player. Sony says its Network Walkman stores 3,000 more songs than the 40GB iPod—that's a juicy claim, but it has a bitter aftertaste. The NW-HD1 plays tunes only in Sony's proprietary ATRAC3 compression format—MP3 and AAC files are converted to ATRAC3 files when you transfer them to the NW-HD1, a process that takes 20 to 30 seconds per track and degrades the quality of the original file.

But wait—there's less! Sony bases its "more tracks" argument on an ATRAC3 bit rate of 48 Kbps—a rate that produces appallingly bad audio quality. For us, the minimum acceptable bit rate for AAC compression through decent headphones is 128 Kbps, and at that rate the Network Walkman holds about half the number of tracks as the 40GB iPod does—and they both cost around \$400. Let's see—no native MP3 or AAC support, a homely-at-best interface, and half the capacity of a similarly priced iPod. Thank you, no.



Is it coincidence that the Sony's iPod challenger's ATRAC3 compression sounds a lot like 8-track?

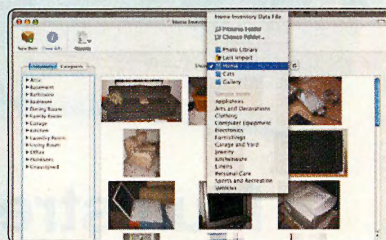
## NEW STUFF

### ▶ HOME INVENTORY MADE EASY Intuit Quicken 2005

\$69.95 (ESP), [www.intuit.com](http://www.intuit.com)

Available: August 2004

Quicken 2005's new Express Setup feature gets you up and running quickly, and a new Home Inventory system ties into iPhoto and lets you categorize your possessions in location- and category-specific albums of annotated photos.



Quicken 2005 makes it easy to document your stuff.

### ▶ MOBILE MINI BLASTER Altec Lansing iMmini

\$149.99, [www.alteclansing.com](http://www.alteclansing.com)

Available: August 2004

Altec Lansing follows up its popular inMotion iPod speaker set with the iMmini. This four-watt systemette gets a claimed 24 hours of juice out of four AA batteries and folds up into a DVD case-size package.

### ▶ PAN PANTS Scott eVest Hidden Cargo Pants

\$129.99,

[www.scottevest.com](http://www.scottevest.com)

Available: September 2004

These sassy pants contain 14 hidden pockets for your gadgetry. Scott eVest's patented PAN (personal area network) discreetly routes earbud cables and other devices' wires, and the pants' Teflon coating combats Cheetos crud and Jolt Cola spills.



Is that a PAN in your pants, or are you just...oh, never mind.



## DROOLWORTHY

Sexy Stuff We Can't Wait to Get Our Mitts On



### ↑ Multistream Wireless Music System

Move over, AirPort Express: The **Sonos Digital Music System** (\$1,199 with remote and two ZonePlayers, [www.sonos.com](http://www.sonos.com)) is wireless music done right. Using the iPod-style scroll wheel on the color-LCD-equipped remote, you can simultaneously play different MP3, WMA, AAC, or WAV tunes in different rooms, as long as each room is equipped with one of the system's 50W ZonePlayer amplifiers.

IMAGE COURTESY OF SONOS



### ← Amplified iPod Dock

Pop your dockable iPod or iPod mini into JBL's **On Stage** (\$199.95, [www.jbl.com](http://www.jbl.com)) speaker system (or connect your first-generation iPod or CD player to the stereo mini jack), then use the On Stage's touchpad to adjust the volume as your tunes pump through four neodymium magnet-equipped Odyssey speakers powered by a 6W per channel amp.

IMAGE COURTESY OF JBL





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# ExpertUser

DEBORAH SHADOVITZ

## Mac User Groups

Mac User Groups (MUGs) are magical meeting places where people help each other—for free. Where you can learn about software by seeing it in action. Where you can learn which local Mac shops do top-notch work and which don't. Where you can ask a question and get multiple viewpoints. They're places where "ah-ha!" moments happen: So that's what was happening to my Mac!

Apple user groups have been around as long as Apple has. Although some folks thought MUGs would go the way of the dinosaur when the Internet became ubiquitous, they haven't—heck, MUGs are where people learn the latest way to get online! While the 'net's a great place to get information, there's nothing like good old in-person demonstration and discussion. MUGs are here to stay—Apple's User Group Locator ([www.apple.com/usergroups](http://www.apple.com/usergroups)) lists over 660 active MUGs in the U.S. alone. The spirit

that makes people think different connects them at MUGs.

What happens at a MUG meeting? Typically there's an open Q&A where you can ask questions or learn from other users' issues. There's usually a main presentation from a power user about a software, hardware, or OS feature. And there's usually a break during which you have the opportunity to mingle—and don't be shy: Getting to know other attendees can lead to great friends, jobs—even Mac-fueled romance. Some groups have swap or sale tables, and most have some sort of drawing stocked with prizes from Mac vendors who enjoy supporting MUGs.

Sometimes a topic may seem unimportant or over your head. Listen



**Thanks to her MUG education, Deb can out-genius any Apple Store Genius Bar staffer.**

anyway. Follow as best you can. Chances are, someday you'll find yourself facing a problem, and suddenly what you originally didn't understand will make sense—or at least help you recognize the issue so you can seek help.

Meetings are typically free, but after attending a few it's good form to join. Membership usually costs \$25 to \$50 and includes perks such as drawings, discounts, newsletters, libraries, and Special Interest Groups (SIGs).

One day you're learning, and the next you're helping someone who says, "Wow, how do you know all of this?"

### NOTE

For links to User Group info and a sampling of groups, visit [www.macaddict.com/user](http://www.macaddict.com/user).

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK GREENBLATT

## SHAREWARE PICK OF THE MONTH

**DVD Database X** [www.valencio.com](http://www.valencio.com) \$20

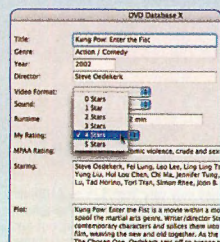
Martha Stewart may be behind bars, but organization is still a good thing. Valencio Productions' DVD Database X will help you organize your ever-expanding film library. Instead of tediously entering data such as title, director, and plot description, you can use DVD Database X to retrieve information—even about relatively obscure films—from the IMDb (Internet Movie Database) Web site ([www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com)), saving you hours of typing. Once you set up your database, share the love by lending your movies to friends—DVD Database



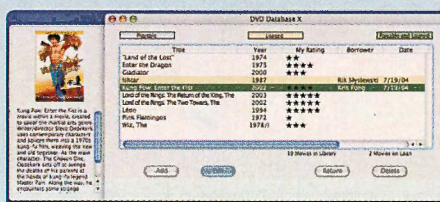
X will keep track of who's got what movie and when they borrowed it (late-fee charges are up to you). Here are a few things you can do with this handy app.



**1** From the Search menu, select **IMDB Lookup**, then type your movie's name in the **Movie Title** field that appears to call up a list of movies. Click the title that matches your movie, and DVD Database X will automatically fill in the IMDb Movie Data fields below.



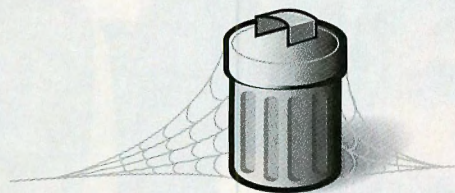
**2** If you're so inclined, you can rate your movie—choose one to five stars from the **My Rating** pop-up.



**3** If you want to create a custom field, from the **Edit** menu, select **Database Fields**, and in the resulting dialog, enter a new field name in the **Field Name** box. Click **Add**, and a new field will appear at the bottom of your database screen. (Here, we added an **Item Condition** field.)



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While you may not look forward to expenses, presentations, and memos, the other you eats 'em for breakfast. Microsoft® Office 2004 for Mac has clever time-saving features that let you – strike that, the other you – churn out stunning documents. A smarter way to work. A smarter Office. Go to [officeformac.com](http://officeformac.com) for a free trial.



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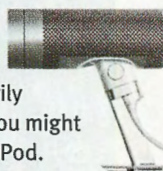
## BUG OF THE MONTH

MacFixIt.com

### GOT A POOPED 'POD? HERE'S HELP.

If you have a fourth-generation (click-wheel) iPod or have recently installed iPod Updater 2004-7-15 (version 3.0.1)\*, and you're experiencing slow file-transfer speeds or the inability to mount your iPod, here are some possible fixes.

**Unplug Your iSight** An iSight or other FireWire device on the same chain as your iPod can sometimes cause interference—the iSight is particularly notorious. Temporarily disconnecting an iSight or other peripheral can help, and you might consider installing a FireWire PCI card just for the iSight or iPod.



Apple's  
iSight can  
wreak  
havoc on  
your iPod.

**Check Your FireWire Card** If you—or, more likely, a PC-lumbered buddy—are using a FireWire PCI card, read the label on its FireWire chipset. Chipsets manufactured by VIA Technologies are especially troublesome—in fact, on Apple's list of FireWire and USB chipsets recommended for use with the iPod (<http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=93405>), VIA is notably absent.

**Delete .plist Files** If your iPod is not mounting properly, try deleting the following files and then restarting: com.apple.iPod.plist (/Library/Preferences), com.apple.iPod.plist (user name/Library/Preferences), iPod2004-07-15.pkg (/Library/Receipts).

\*A note about iPod Updater 2004-7-15: If you have a first, second, or third generation iPod, you don't need to install this update if you previously installed iPod Updater 2004-04-28—in fact, doing so has caused problems for some users. All iPod Updater 2004-07-15 adds is support for the fourth-generation click-wheel iPod.—MacFixIt

## CHAT SAFELY

Email had its day, but corporate communicators are now turning to iChat and other forms of Instant Messaging. Here's a rundown of the latest industrial-strength ways to make your workplace securely chattier.—Niko Coucouvanis



Next year, Mac OS X Server 10.4 (Tiger) will add secure iChat.

- ▶ Apple is rolling a secure iChat server into **Mac OS X Server 10.4 (Tiger)**—complete with Kerberos authentication and compatibility with the Open Source Jabber protocol ([www.jabber.org](http://www.jabber.org)).
- ▶ Stalker Software's CommuniGate Pro v4.2 (call for pricing, [www.stalker.com](http://www.stalker.com)) includes an SIP (Session Initiated Protocol) server that brings real-time communications Instant Messaging, VoIP, video chat, and high-end collaboration aids such as whiteboards, and desktop and application sharing to any SIP-based client. That includes iChatAV.
- ▶ **Five Across** ([www.fiveacross.com](http://www.fiveacross.com)) incorporates user groups, file sharing, and project management into its free chat client. Enterprise users can step up to the **Five Across Workgroup Server** and keep all the chatter and file sharing behind the company firewall. The client is free, but the Workgroup Server is one of those call-for-pricing deals.
- ▶ No secure server? No problem. Intego's new **Chat Barrier X3** (\$39.95, [www.intego.com](http://www.intego.com)) wraps your iChat missives in military-grade 512-bit encryption that only other Chat Barrier X3 users can crack.
- ▶ For the truly paranoid, **PGP Desktop 8.1** (\$59 for personal use, [www.pgp.com](http://www.pgp.com)) offers weapons-grade data encryption to desktop users. You can PGP-encrypt anything on your Mac, including email and chat communiqués, and only the appropriate PGP key can decrypt them.

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## MEET YOUR DOOM 3

Having made its first public debut back at Mac Expo 2001 on a Power Mac G4, Doom 3 has been in development a *long* time. At its unveiling, Doom teased gamers with its impressive graphics—and soon created a mythology all its own. A retelling of the original story, Doom 3 casts you in the role of a lone space marine fighting for survival on a Mars space colony. In addition to its frenzied FPS action, Doom 3 will send you trembling down dark corridors filled with gruesome monsters lurking in the

shadows. Expect a terrifying atmosphere and realistic environments with demonically high system requirements to match.—Matt Osborn

### Doom 3

Price	\$54.99
Available	"When it is done."
Id Software www.idsoftware.com	



Replete with monsters and gore, Doom is back!



## SPACE COLONIZATION FOR FUN AND BOOTY

► A new developer, Aepox Games, has granted you the power to design and build your own starship empire in Andromeda Online. Use strategy and cunning as you hunt down enemy star fleets while using asteroid fields and nebulae for cover. Your objective is to seize and plunder the richest planet, Andromeda. Play alone or with up to 10 players online, either against each other or teaming up against computer-controlled enemies.—MO

### Andromeda Online

Price	Free (Basic account), \$7.95 (monthly fee for Premium)
Available	Late 2004 or early 2005
Aepox Games www.andromedaonline.net	

## MACOLOGIST.ORG: A MODDER'S HEAVEN

► Looking for some Mac-compatible mods for Unreal Tournament 2004 or Battlefield 1942? Check out the game gurus at [www.macologist.org](http://www.macologist.org)—they develop apps (called launchers) that convert PC-only mods into Mac-friendly gaming fun. They have Halo tools as well.—MO



Unreal Tournament mods such as Galactic Conquest play just fine on the Mac—with a little help.

## EATING BEFORE PLAY IS NOT RECOMMENDED

► Looking for roller-coaster excitement without the screaming teens? NoLimits lets you ride over forty existing coasters, or create some of your own. With 13 track styles, including inverted and wooden coasters, your imagination can run wild. NoLimits Coaster should appeal to both the hard-core coaster enthusiast and the casual thrill seeker.—MO



Hop in and hang on in NoLimits Coaster.

### NoLimits Coaster

Price	\$25
Available	Now
Mad Data www.nolimitscoaster.com	

## TIPS: STAR WARS: KNIGHTS OF THE OLD REPUBLIC

Five thousand years before Luke and Leia, the Sith and the Old Republic struggled for supremacy of the galaxy. Here are some handy tips to help you win the war.

**Always have the maximum number** of members in your party on your planet just in case you run in to trouble.

**The most important character attribute** to upgrade is wisdom; it gives you bonus Jedi Force points and Force-power saving throws.

**Also upgrade strength or dexterity**—upgrade the one that had the most points when you began the game.

**When you gain a Jedi power, max it out**—levels 2 and 3 cost you the same amount of Force power.

**Boost the Burst Of Speed** power for all your characters to at least level 2, and max it out for your character.





# What's New AUDIO

M-Audio ([www.m-audio.com](http://www.m-audio.com)) unveiled the **FireWire 1814** (\$749.95), an 18-input/14-output, pro audio interface that supports audio, MIDI, and ADAT connections; and **GrooveLab** (\$129.99), a hardware and software bundle aimed at everyday Joes and Judys.

Edirol ([www.edirol.com](http://www.edirol.com)) announced the **UA-25**—a portable USB-powered, audio and MIDI recording interface that features TRS/XLR combo inputs (\$295, available in Q3 2004).

VirSyn debuted **Cantor 1.0** (\$299, [www.virsyn.de/en](http://www.virsyn.de/en)), which turns your Mac into a virtual vocalist. Guitar gods can bang their heads to **Native Instruments Guitar Rig** (\$499, [www.native-instruments.com](http://www.native-instruments.com)); this foot controller and software package features an überrealistic-sounding software



**Spike teaches old audio dogs new recording tricks.**

amplifier that's chock-full of amp models, effects, and virtual miking options. NI also released **Xpress Keyboards** (\$119), a virtual pack of three renowned hardware synths.

PG Music

reincarnated a blast from the past: **Band-in-a-Box 12** (\$88, [www.pgmusic.com](http://www.pgmusic.com)), a virtual backup-band creator (great for divas), adding new features and Aquafication. Mackie unleashed **Spike** (\$495, [www.mackie.com](http://www.mackie.com)), a pint-sized, 2-channel, audio/MIDI recording interface bundled with **Tracktion** software.

Need more GarageBand sounds? Check out AMG's 92-instrument **ExpansionPack** (about \$55, [www.amguk.co.uk](http://www.amguk.co.uk)), SonicEmulations rockin' **Bandmates Drummer—Rock Drums** (\$13.95, [www.bandmateloops.com](http://www.bandmateloops.com)), and Tunemedia's 500-loop **Tune-Up** (\$34.99, [www.tuneuploops.com](http://www.tuneuploops.com)).—Kris Fong



## PERFECTING THE ART OF DIGITAL MEDIA.

Roku proudly introduces two network-ready media players that turn home entertainment into an art form.



**The Roku HD1000 high-definition digital media player** brings your high-def TV to life with digital photos, classic art and LiveArt™, your entire music library — even DVDs you've saved to your computer. Just pop in a digital memory card, or easily connect with your Mac or PC.




**The Roku SoundBridge Network Music Player** plays your PC or Mac music files anywhere in the house. SoundBridge's large, bright display, sleek aluminum casing, and built-in iTunes® compatibility (along with support for all major music formats) make it a winning part of any home AV system.

For information and special offers, visit [www.rokulabs.com/ma](http://www.rokulabs.com/ma)

**Roku™**  
[www.rokulabs.com/ma](http://www.rokulabs.com/ma)







**T**oday's shareware scene is more vibrant than ever—hundreds of shareware authors are busily churning out a steady stream of ingenious, useful, and just plain cool tools.

Why this shareware renaissance? Two reasons: First, since Apple now bundles easy-to-use developers' tools with every copy of Mac OS X, everyone can join the party without shelling out a pile o' dough for development software. Second, OS X's Unix core is luring Unix developers to come and play in our sandbox—and many of them seem to like it here.

To bring you the best of this flood of great new apps, we gathered 100 top shareware, freeware, and donationware titles across 10 categories to introduce you to the best new stuff—and to make sure some classics get

# Shareware

their due. Some of these homemade apps may have their warts, but they also have dedicated fans who rave about them to passersby in the street. Others are simply apps we thought were cool, and we couldn't believe no one else seemed to have heard of 'em.

The one thing all 100 titles have in common is that we recommend you try them. Who knows? Maybe you'll soon be buttonholing passersby yourself.

**BY JACK MILLER**

## **The Obligatory Disclaimer**

In general, shareware authors don't have the massive testing resources of commercial developers, even though many are professional code wranglers, so install these apps with caution. Though we've tried all of them and are satisfied that they work fine, conflicts might occur with some software or systems—maybe yours.

Also, you might be surprised that some of your faves are not on our list or this month's Disc. For example, we didn't include DVDBackup or LimeWire because of their dubious legal standing; SideTrack's public beta is on our list but not on the Disc, as it's been known to cause kernel panics; and we also left the current version of LaunchBar off the Disc because it would have expired by the time you read this—although there may be a new version available...right...about...now.





**Our experts  
navigate through  
the rapidly  
expanding  
shareware  
universe to find  
the top 10 apps  
in the top 10  
categories.**

# Explosion!

**CLASSIC** These veteran apps have withstood the test of time.

**GEEK ALERT** You don't have to be a geek to appreciate these—but it helps.

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# Audio

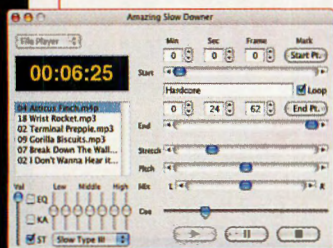
Whether you're making music or just listening to it, there's plenty of shareware that can make your experience more productive—or more fun. Some of it might even slip you into a groove you never knew existed.

## Amazing Slow Downer 2.6.8

\$39.95, [www.ronimusic.com/amslodx.htm](http://www.ronimusic.com/amslodx.htm) (844KB)

ASD changes an audio file's tempo (no big deal) without altering its pitch (there's the big deal). Whether you're playing

an audio file or a CD track, you can hear the song up to 400 percent slower. If you're trying to learn or transcribe a song, this is a killer advantage. ASD lets you loop a portion of a song, change its speed dynamically, and export time-shifted songs in several formats—and it's fun hearing your favorite singers sound falling-down drunk.



Amazing Slow Downer is a speed trap for even the fastest songs.

## Audacity 1.2.1

Free, <http://audacity.sourceforge.net> (6.3MB)

Its interface may be a bit clumsy, but Audacity is open-source multitrack audio editing at its finest. You can open and mix as many tracks as disk space and CPU load allow; cut, copy, and paste to your heart's content (Audacity has unlimited undos); or bust out built-in effects such as Echo, Fade-In/Out, and Noise Removal. It may not put commercial audio editors out of business, but if you're looking for free audio power, Audacity's your app.



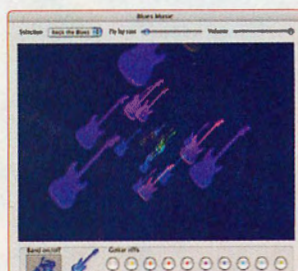
Music, music, music! Audacity mixes together as many tracks as you like.

## Audio Hijack 2.1.3

\$16, [www.rogueamoeba.com/audiohijack](http://www.rogueamoeba.com/audiohijack) (3.6MB)

Not enough bass in your Unreal Tournament frags? Audio Hijack grabs the audio output from any application and applies equalizer effects to it. This app can also set timers to record Internet radio automatically. Best of all, since Audio Hijack only records sound from a specified app, you don't

have to worry about hearing your Empty Trash sound in the middle of Car Talk.



Check out Blues Music's unique push-button blues licks—and flying guitars.

## Blues Music 1.21

Free, <http://homepage.mac.com/davidahmed/bluesMusic.html> (5.4MB)

If you don't play guitar, Blues Music will make you want to. If you're a blues master, it'll make you wonder why you spent all that time practicing. Blues Music gives you a tireless backup band and ten killer riffs in each of three styles (12-Bar Blues,

Shuffle, or Rock the Blues) that you trigger with mouse clicks or keystrokes as different-colored guitars go whirling by. Dumb fun, perhaps—but fun nonetheless.

## Clutter 1.0d14

Free, [www.sprote.com/clutter](http://www.sprote.com/clutter) (948KB)

Does scrolling through neat, clinical lists of artists and albums in iTunes leave you cold? Then check out Clutter, an alternative graphical interface. Clutter displays the album art of the current song (or downloads it for you first), which you can then drag anywhere on your screen. Once you've got a couple dozen virtual CD jewel cases piled up on your desktop willy-nilly, you can sift through them visually and double-click one to play the album. Messiness rules.



Now you can make iTunes look like your underwear drawer. Hooray for conformity!

## Dent du Midi 0.9

Free, <http://homepage.mac.com/beryrinaldo/ddm> (324KB)

Yeah, we know GarageBand rules and blah, blah, blah—but can you believe it doesn't import MIDI files? What's up with that? No worries—Dent du Midi effortlessly converts each track of a MIDI file into a separate Apple Loop that you can drag right into GarageBand. Assign an appropriate—or inappropriate, if that's your thing—software instrument to play each track, and bam, you're off and running.

## iPodRip 3.3.1

\$10, [www.thelittleappfactory.com/software/ipodrip.php](http://www.thelittleappfactory.com/software/ipodrip.php) (1.5MB)

Sure, there are zillions of apps that can pull music off an iPod, but iPodRip does it in style. It can transfer not only your songs, but also your playlists, ratings, and play counts. iPodRip can also print or export your iPod's song list, and even check the integrity of your 'Pod's database. It's the only iPod utility you'll ever need—that is, until Apple releases a video 'Pod.

## MidiKeys 1.6b3

Free, [www.manyetas.com/creed/midikeys\\_beta.html](http://www.manyetas.com/creed/midikeys_beta.html) (408KB)

GarageBand lets Mac users play dozens of software instruments—as long as they have a USB or MIDI music keyboard, which usually costs at least \$99. MidiKeys to the



rescue! It's a MIDI emulator that makes the keys on your typing keyboard act like keys on a music keyboard. They're not sensitive to pressure (velocity), so it's not a perfect solution, but you can tap out some bass and drum lines without draining your wallet.

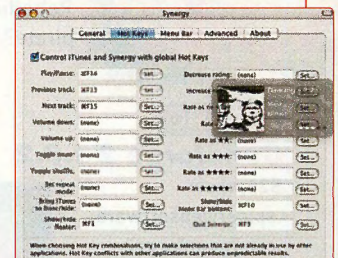
### StreamRipperX 1.05

**Free**, <http://sourceforge.net/projects/streamripperx> (832KB)  
Internet radio meets TiVo! If you want more control over your listening experience, StreamRipperX can save each individual song in a broadcast as a separate MP3 file (with full ID3 tags), so when you dump the tracks onto your iPod and listen later, you can skip songs you don't like. Click a genre and StreamRipperX shows available Shoutcast streams; it can even relay a stream to iTunes so you can listen while it's recording.

### Synergy 1.0

**5€ (approximately \$6 at press time)**, <http://synergy.wincnet.com> (2.7MB)

iTunes is free and fantastic; iTunes plus Synergy is nearly divine. Synergy gives you systemwide menubar and hot-key control of iTunes—you can skip tracks, rate songs, and more without interrupting your workflow. It can also display a translucent floating window with information about the current track, including album art automatically downloaded based on the song's ID3 tags.



**Synergy provides menubar and hot-key control of iTunes along with floating song info.**

## Fun & Games

*You know what they say: All work and no play makes Jack Nicholson try to axe his family. Take a break from the serious stuff and kick back with a selection of some of the finest time-wasters available in the shareware universe.*

### Big Bang Chess 1.21

**Free**, [www.freeverse.com/bigbangchess](http://www.freeverse.com/bigbangchess) (23.1MB)



If chess always looked as good as Big Bang Chess, we'd feel better about losing.

Big Bang Chess is a challenge for budding Spasskys. It lets you play network games over Rendezvous, integrates with iChat and iTunes, and has a nifty Play-By-Email feature so you and your opponent need never be online at the same time. Its award-winning

interface is stunning, with OpenGL reflections, smooth animation, and a nice victory dance by the winning pieces at the end of a game. Classy.

**CLASSIC**

### Burning Monkey Solitaire 3 3.0.1

**\$24.95**, [www.freeverse.com/bms3](http://www.freeverse.com/bms3) (200MB)

Does your solitaire game include monkeys who hurl insults

at you and occasionally burst into flames? Thought not. Although BMS is now commercially available, it's got more shareware spirit than ten lesser apps combined. In addition to packing 21 different solitaire games, it's a bad vaudeville act (the best kind) with animated monkeys heckling your every move. Sound annoying? It is—and you'll love it.

### Doulber Gold 1.0

**\$24.95**, [www.phelios.com/mac/doulber.html](http://www.phelios.com/mac/doulber.html) (33.5MB)

No, that's not a typo—that's Doulber, not Doubler. Dude's an ant, and you send him digging through a hundred-plus levels of dirt as he avoids falling rocks, dodges bats and monsters, and collects diamonds—sometimes telepathically. Plot? We don't got to show you no steenking plot! Plus, there are bombs and flowing hot lava—how can you go wrong?

### Enigmo 1.3.1

**\$19.95**, [www.pangeasoft.net/enigmo](http://www.pangeasoft.net/enigmo) (35.7MB)



Enigmo is the best addition to water sports since the Slip 'n Slide.

The makers of Bugdom and Nanosaur bring you a unique puzzle game in which you have to link together, Rube Goldberg-style, a pile of bumpers, slides, and sponges

to get streams of different liquids flowing to the right destinations. The graphics, as you'd expect from Pangea, are magnificent. Go get wet.

### Escape Velocity Nova 1.0.8

**\$30**, [www.ambrosiasw.com/games/evn](http://www.ambrosiasw.com/games/evn) (184.1MB)

Wave good-bye to your life: Escape Velocity Nova is more addictive than the two earlier games in the Escape Velocity series, with enhanced graphics, a Mac OS X-native engine, and a slew of new stories. You play a lowly space captain in a universe on the





brink of war. Will you join the Feds, be an honest merchant, run guns for the Rebellion, or just chuck it all and be a pirate? You'll never sleep again. Never.

## CLASSIC

### Geneforge 2 1.0.2

\$25, [www.spiderwebsoftware.com/geneforge2](http://www.spiderwebsoftware.com/geneforge2) (30.3MB)

OK, so the graphics are a little dated, but Geneforge 2 is a turn-based fantasy role-playing game with a soul. Here, gameplay is king—the plot is so textured that you'll scarcely notice the graphics aren't. The story has a pinch of genetic-style sci-fi: As a Shaper, you create life to serve and defend you. If you're a fan of the RPG genre, Geneforge 2 has some serious substance to offer.



Don't judge Geneforge 2 solely by its graphics, kids—the story's a doozy.

### MacMAME 0.77u2a

Free, [www.macmame.org](http://www.macmame.org) (26.4MB)



MacMAME remains the only space-efficient way to cram 2,500 arcade games into your den.

Remember all those precious hours you wasted in video-game arcades as a kid? Prepare to waste 'em all over again. MAME—the Multi-Arcade Machine Emulator—can emulate over 2,500 old arcade games. The only catch is that you need a game's ROM file to emulate it, and it's not legal to download one unless you own the game

itself. But you've got a couple thousand arcade games in your basement, right? Of course you do. Enjoy.

### Maelstrom 3.0.6

Free, [www.devolution.com/~slouken/Maelstrom](http://www.devolution.com/~slouken/Maelstrom) (2.8MB)

Here's something everyone can enjoy: an OS X–native version of Maelstrom, the best shareware game of 1993. This version has a host of improvements, such as a Web-based high-score list and multiplayer network play. Smash asteroids, catch power-ups, and defend yourself against alien marauders—what else is there to life?

### Marathon: Aleph One 0.13.0

Free, <http://source.bungie.org> (4.7MB)

Now you can play Marathon 2 and Infinity natively in Mac OS X, thanks to Aleph One, the Marathon open-source project. Code-savvy 'thoners have also added OpenGL rendering, high-resolution texture support, enhanced Lua scripting, and surprisingly tight Internet play, so you can SPNK your pals from miles away. (Note: Requires original game files from Marathon 2 or Marathon Infinity, or Marathon Infinity demo files at <ftp://ftp3.bungie.org/source/Mara%20Inf%20Demo%20for%20Aleph%20One.sit>.)

### Snood 3.01

\$14.95, [www.snood.com](http://www.snood.com) (8.4MB)

It's not just a game—it's a way of life. The Snoods are trapped, and you have to save them by grouping three or more like Snoods together so they can teleport out. How do you accomplish this? By launching more Snoods at them with a cannon. It's far easier (and more fun) to play than to describe. Once you bank your first Mildred off the wall, you'll understand the appeal.



Snood features weird face-type creatures in distress, along with a cannon—it's Breakout with personality.

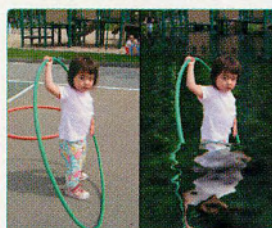
# Graphics & Imaging

*News flash: You don't have to blow a grand or more on an armload of Adobe products if all you want to do is touch up a few snapshots and create some buttons for your Web site. Some of these titles can meet your pixel-pushing needs.*

### eClick 1.2.5

\$24.95, [www.kineticcreations.com/eclick](http://www.kineticcreations.com/eclick) (1.9MB)

eClick creates lush, vibrant buttons for Web sites and other projects. The buttons are so professional-looking, and the app's interface is so elegant and simple, that we're willing to overlook the fact that it straddles the fine line between shareware and commercial software.



Flood makes your photos all wet. And you without your galoshes...

### Flood 1.1

\$20, [www.flamingpear.com/flood.html](http://www.flamingpear.com/flood.html) (456KB)

Water, water everywhere! Flood is a Photoshop plug-in that pumps even the driest images full of wet stuff. Just set your horizon line, decide how high you want the water



level to rise, enter Waves and Ripples settings, and click OK; one number-crunching session later, your photo is submerged. Pack a snorkel.

### CLASSIC

#### GifBuilder 0.5

Free, [www.mac.org/graphics/gifbuilder](http://www.mac.org/graphics/gifbuilder) (340KB)

It's been untouched for eight years, but GifBuilder is still the best animated GIF-construction app for the price—free. Drag individual graphic files into its interface, order them to your liking, and GifBuilder will spit out an animated GIF89-format file suitable for annoying Web surfers the world over. Note: There is an OS X version, but its broken palette support and buggy transparency means you're better off sticking to the Classic version.

#### Gimp.app 2.0.0.5

Free, <http://gimp-app.sourceforge.net> (77.2MB)

If you're willing to stray from the world of native Mac apps (eek!), consider a Linux import: Install Apple's X11 environment ([www.apple.com/macosx/features/x11](http://www.apple.com/macosx/features/x11)), and download Gimp.app (GNU image manipulation program). The interface is foreign, but once you get used to it you'll be stunned by how much of Photoshop's power you can get for free.



Gimp's interface is sketchy but its feature set is huge.

### CLASSIC

#### GraphicConverter 5.2.1

\$30, [www.lemkesoft.business.t-online.de/en/graphcon.htm](http://www.lemkesoft.business.t-online.de/en/graphcon.htm) (16.2MB)

If you need Photoshop, you need Photoshop—but if you only *think* you need Photoshop, GraphicConverter may be more than enough muscle. At last count, it could read 186 formats and export to 60 of them—and it packs an abundance of more-than-decent editing features, such as a cloning tool, an unsharp mask, gamma correction, alpha-channel support, and a whole lot more. C'mon, Apple even bundles a registered copy with each Power Mac and PowerBook—what does that tell you?

#### Iconographer 2.5

\$15, [www.mscape.com/products/iconographer.html](http://www.mscape.com/products/iconographer.html) (1.4MB)

Iconographer packs more icon-forging power than you may ever need. It handles every size icon the Mac has ever supported, and makes switching between different icon resources a snap. Its interface is polished and



Iconographer is the only tool you need to make icons of all shapes and sizes.

comfortable—it feels like a mature paint application, albeit one that happens to specialize in icon editing. By the way, should the need ever arise, it even supports Windows icons.

#### JPEGDeux 1.7b

Free, <http://homepage.mac.com/gershwin/software.html> (468KB)

JPEGDeux does slide shows. Yes, that's all—but it's one of the friskiest one-trick ponies we know. Choose to display images full screen, in a window, or even in the Dock; drag in folders of images, choose scaling settings, transitions, autoadvance delay, and more—then click Begin and you're off and running. It's simple, powerful, and great for viewing images you don't necessarily want to import into iPhoto.



JPEGDeux is a simple and elegant way to scan your pics.

#### PhotoReviewer 1.2

\$10, [www.sticksoftware.com/software/PhotoReviewer.html](http://www.sticksoftware.com/software/PhotoReviewer.html) (1MB)

PhotoReviewer is a cross between a slide-show app and Survivor, allowing you to vote images off the island—very useful if you ever find yourself having to comb through hundreds of photos to decide which ones to keep. As each picture appears on your display, just press the space bar to keep it or the delete key to banish it from your sight for good.

#### Poster Print 1.0a5

Free, [www.luxordevelopment.ch.vu/software/posterprint](http://www.luxordevelopment.ch.vu/software/posterprint) (1MB)

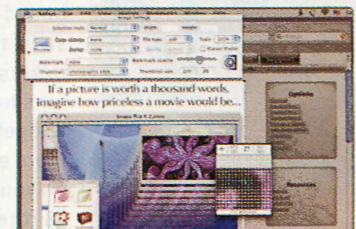
Why pay a print shop for giant posters and banners when all you need is a color printer, some scissors, a whole lotta tape, and a copy of Poster Print? Drag in any graphic file and specify a size; Poster Print enlarges your picture and tiles it across multiple pages. Just print, trim, tape, and bam—you've got a life-size Steve Jobs for the door of your fridge.

### CLASSIC

#### Snapz Pro X 2.0.0

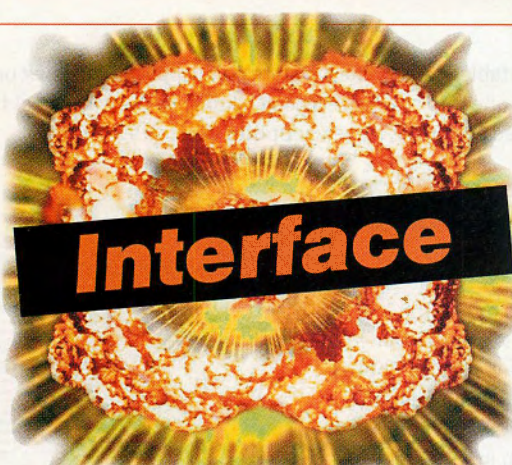
\$29, [www.ambrosiasw.com/utilities/snapzprox](http://www.ambrosiasw.com/utilities/snapzprox) (2.1MB)

To take a screenshot, use Command-Shift-3 or the Grab utility—or get Snapz Pro X and discover just how easy (and fun) taking screenshots can be. Insanely flexible, this king of screen-capture utilities can add watermarks, thumbnails, and borders, and it can save in a variety of file formats. Once you try QuickTime mode, you'll be scrambling to spend the extra \$40 for the Movie Capture version.



Snapz Pro X rocks, as you can see here. Just don't ask us how we got a screenshot of a screenshot utility.





*Apple may know a whole lot more about human interface design than Microsoft ever will, but that doesn't mean the folks in Cupertino always get it right. Here's some software that might fill a hole or two in your Mac-to-user connection.*

## Desktop Manager 0.5.2rc1

Free, <http://wsmanager.sourceforge.net> (868KB)

It's Fast User Switching for just one user: Run Word on one virtual desktop, Safari on another, Mail on a third, and switch between them as needed. You can set hot keys for quick switching and customize a ton of switching options. Desktop Manager is still in beta, but it's approaching rock-solid and is more polished with every release. Plus it does that spinning-cube transition thang, so, hey, it's gotta be good.

## DockFun 4.6

\$19.95, [www.dockfun.com](http://www.dockfun.com) (2.3MB)

Is your Dock suffering from overload? DockFun can help by letting you configure as many Docks as you want and switch between them at will. Each Dock can have different preferences, autolaunch one or more items, and even launch as a separate "Donelleschi Dock"—a free-floating window for when you need more than one Dock at a time. The app's still a bit buggy, but it's hella useful.

## CLASSIC

## Konfabulator 1.7

\$25, [www.konfabulator.com](http://www.konfabulator.com) (6.9MB)

Konfabulator is a runtime environment for JavaScript-based Widgets—little applets such as clocks, calendars, stock tickers, and more. Konfabulator fans have created hundreds of Widgets, and they're creating more every day. Widgets run on your desktop, and pressing F8 (the Konsposé function) reveals them all, à la Exposé. If this sounds a lot like a certain

upcoming Tiger feature, well, check out "Inside the Belly of the Beast" (Sep/04, p20)—and remember: Konfabulator is available *now*.



Get Konfabulator before Apple's Dashboard annihilates it.

## LaunchBar 3.3

\$19.95 home, \$39 business, [www.obdev.at/products/launchbar](http://www.obdev.at/products/launchbar) (972KB)



In LaunchBar, just type Command-space and a couple of characters to access apps, email addresses, bookmarks, and so on, and so on...

LaunchBar's fans are legion. You owe it to yourself to install it and see why they're so loyal. Press Command-space at any time to bring up a list of smartly sorted files, applications, recently

bookmarked Web sites, Address Book contacts, and so on—just type a few characters that relate to what you're looking for. Over time, LaunchBar learns what you want and presents it to you—it may even be smarter than Tiger's Spotlight.

## SideTrack 0.9

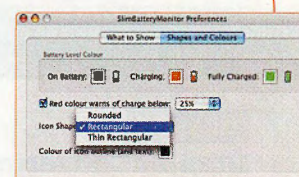
Free until 1.0 release, [www.ragingmenace.com/software/sidetrack](http://www.ragingmenace.com/software/sidetrack) (264KB)

SideTrack is a must-have for all 'Book owners. It's a replacement trackpad driver that can emulate a scroll wheel when you drag along a specified edge of the pad. It can also turn a trackpad tap into a standard click and your 'Book's hardware button into a right-click. Tapping the corners of the pad can emulate additional mouse buttons or even keystrokes. When SideTrack 1.0 finally ships, it'll be well worth whatever price it commands.

## SlimBatteryMonitor 1.1

Free, [www.orange-carb.org/SBM](http://www.orange-carb.org/SBM) (448KB)

Is Mac OS X's menubar battery monitor such an egregious space hog just to get PowerBook users to buy new 17-inchers? No matter: SlimBatteryMonitor can show you the same info in far less space. It supports color-coding based on charge remaining and can even disappear completely when the battery is fully charged.



With SlimBatteryMonitor, you'll save space in your PowerBook's menubar. A lot of space.

## CLASSIC

## TinkerTool 3.21

Free, [www.bresink.com/osx/TinkerTool.html](http://www.bresink.com/osx/TinkerTool.html) (2.9MB)

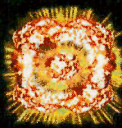
TinkerTool is the justly admired Swiss Army Knife of interface tweaks. With it, you can change various interface options that are built right into Mac OS X but that lack easy editing options: Change your System fonts, stick your Dock at the top of the screen, make the Finder show hidden files, and much more. Basically, there's no reason *not* to use TinkerTool.

## WeatherPop Advance 2.0.1

\$8, [www.glu.com/products/weatherpop](http://www.glu.com/products/weatherpop) (9.9MB)

Tired of getting old while your browser renders the bloat of Weather.com? With WeatherPop Advance, the current temperature and weather are always right there in your menubar. Click to see details, a five-day forecast, and the weather and temperature in other cities around the world.





# Internet

Here are 10 top shareware titles to help you tame the Web.

## Comictastic 2.2

\$15, <http://comictastic.com>  
(1.7MB)

Read all of your favorite Web-based funnies in one polished application.

### GEEK ALERT

## Fire 1.03

Free, <http://fire.sourceforge.net>  
(13.6MB)

Chat via Yahoo, ICQ, MSN, Jabber, and IRC in addition to AIM and .Mac accounts.

## iChat Streaming Icon 1.3.1

\$5, <http://ichat.twosailors.com>  
(928KB)

Replace your buddy icon with a live video feed or QuickTime animation.

## Little Snitch 1.1

\$24.95, [www.obdev.at/products/littlesnitch/index.html](http://www.obdev.at/products/littlesnitch/index.html) (1.3MB)

Get an alert if any app tries to send information without your knowledge.

## Maxi Bidder 1.93

\$9.99, [www.colourfull.com/maxi.html](http://www.colourfull.com/maxi.html) (3.2MB)  
Automatically bid on multiple eBay auctions during the last few seconds of each.

## NetNewsWire 1.0.8

\$39.95 (or free for Lite version), <http://ranchero.com/netnewswire> (8.7MB)  
Aggregate headlines, descriptions, and links from Web sites that have RSS feeds.

## SiteSucker 1.6.2

Donationware, [www.sitesucker.us](http://www.sitesucker.us) (198KB)  
Download every file linked from a given URL, including HTML, images, and movies.

### CLASSIC

## Transmit 2.6.2

\$24.95, [www.panic.com/transmit](http://www.panic.com/transmit) (2.8MB)

FTP files with ease:

Just point, click, drag, and drop; Rendezvous support included.

## Unison 1.0.2a

\$24.95, [www.panic.com/unison](http://www.panic.com/unison) (3MB)

Navigate with ease through the neck-deep sludge that is the Usenet.

## URL Manager Pro 3.3

\$25, [www.url-manager.com](http://www.url-manager.com) (6.2MB)  
Quickly access all of your bookmarks from the menu bar of any application.

If you're a cheapskate, the free version of WeatherPop is U.S.-only and lacks the extended forecast—but it's still better than actually going outside.

## WindowShade X 3.1

\$10, [www.unsanity.com/haxies/wsx](http://www.unsanity.com/haxies/wsx) (1.6MB)

Mac OS X's Genie window-minimization effect may look cool, but Mac OS 9's WindowShade was more efficient. WindowShade X brings back that function for Mac OS X, and it works just like you remember from the good ol' days: Click an

active window's title bar, and the window sucks up into it.

## X-Assist 0.7

Free, <http://members.ozemail.com.au/~pli/x-assist> (556KB)

We've used Mac OS X almost exclusively for three years, yet the Classic muscle memory is still intact—every so often, we find ourselves mousing to the upper-right corner to switch apps instead of going down to the Dock. It's time to install X-Assist, which re-creates the Classic-style application menu and restores some other Mac OS 9-style functionality as well. Oooh, *retro*.

# Math & Science

From the useful to the enlightening to the just darn entertaining, here are some of the best math and science shareware apps we've come across.

## Atom in a Box 1.0.8

\$20, [www.daugerresearch.com/orbitals](http://www.daugerresearch.com/orbitals) (524KB)  
Whether or not you find probability distributions of electrons

scientifically interesting, you'll surely agree that these whirling, pulsating clouds look cool. You can grab them and spin them with your mouse—and even see them in 3D if you have those blue-and-red glasses. The complex math that describes the atoms displayed is a nice bonus.

## Celestia 1.3.1

Free, [www.shatters.net/celestia](http://www.shatters.net/celestia) (18.3MB)

Celestia is a gorgeous and insanely detailed simulator that lets you wander the universe in 3D. Speed up time and watch the heavens dance. You're not limited to our own solar system, either; Travel 520 light-years to Antares for a few red rays and be back on Earth by lunchtime. Just running the built-in demo will likely blow your mind.

## ConverTable Units 2.4.5

\$15, [www.synergycreations.com/converTableUnits.html](http://www.synergycreations.com/converTableUnits.html) (2.3MB)

ConverTable Units is a unit-conversion app that converts between hundreds of built-in units (how many cubits in a furlong?) and supports conversion plug-ins so that you can define your own units. Included are a scientific calculator with import and export functions, and a list of common constants.



## Math & Science

### Folding@home 4.0

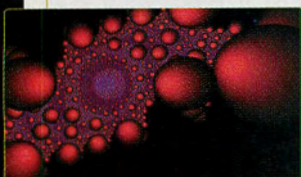
Free, <http://folding.stanford.edu> (472KB)

Use your Mac's extra processor cycles to help simulate protein folding, a biological process that holds the key to understanding Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and other diseases. Folding@home makes you a teensy little cog in a big ol' virtual protein-folding machine similar to the SETI@home project (see below), and even shows you 3D blobby clusters of spheres so you know you're helping.

### Fracture 1.2

\$10, [www.sticksoftware.com/software/Fracture.html](http://www.sticksoftware.com/software/Fracture.html) (640KB)

Even if you hate math, you'll love the chaotic beauty of fractals—and Fracture is a screen saver that draws breathtaking ones. Plus, it's interactive; hot keys let you zoom in on existing fractal landscapes, shift the color scheme, save the fractals you like most, and even set one as your desktop—all while the screen saver is running.



Math is cool with Fracture at your fingertips.

### IS3 X 1.0.1

Free, [www.freaksw.com/applications/is3](http://www.freaksw.com/applications/is3) (1.2MB)

When it comes to exploring the solar system, why should your vantage point always be Earth? Pick a planet or moon to stand on, pick another planet or moon to look at, specify a time and date, and IS3 pulls an image from NASA's Solar System Simulator to show you what you'd see. So *that's* what Saturn looked like from Io during the Cuban Missile Crisis...

### Mars24 5.2.2

Free, [www.giss.nasa.gov/tools/mars24](http://www.giss.nasa.gov/tools/mars24) (1.4MB)

"Hey, buddy, got the time—on Mars?" Now you can finally have a snappy answer for this common question: Mars24

is a Java app that lets you see what time it is on the Red Planet. It includes a sun-clock map that shows whether it's day or night at your fave landmarks such as Valles Marineris, Olympus Mons, and of course the Tharsis Ridge. What's more, actual panoramic photos from the surface make it just like being there. Only less dusty.

### CLASSIC

### SETI@home 3.07

Free, <http://setiathome.ssl.berkeley.edu> (380KB)

Participate in the global Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (yes, aliens) by donating your Mac's idle processor time to a massive distributed-computing project. SETI@home downloads chunks of raw radio telescope data and crunches the numbers, looking for patterns that might indicate an alien radio transmission of some kind. Will it be your Mac that finds one?

### Sproing 2.0.1

Free, <http://lorenb.com/software/sproing> (632KB)

This autumn, spring forward instead of falling back. Sproing is a point-and-click soft-body simulator that lets you build 2D objects out of springs of varying strengths, then let gravity do its thing! Better still, you can grab your creations with the mouse, toss them around, and watch them bounce off the walls. Warning: This is addictive—it's Mac crack.

### GEEK ALERT

### TeXShop 1.34

Free, [www.uoregon.edu/~koch/texshop](http://www.uoregon.edu/~koch/texshop) (12.1MB)

For expressing complex equations in your work, Microsoft Word just doesn't cut it. The extensive math tags in the document-preparation language called TeX can help, but they're a bear to work with. TeXShop, a Cocoa front end for TeX, outputs compiled TeX code as good ol' PDF. Note that TeXShop requires TeX; the Web page tells you how to install it. It's a bit of a chore, but it's worth the onetime effort.

## Productivity

*Productivity is a catch-all category; if you're not using your Mac to kill time, you're using it to get something done. Here's a broad selection of apps (minus the obvious office software) that just might help you get more done in less time.*

### CocoaMySQL 0.5

Free, <http://cocoamysql.sourceforge.net> (1.4MB)

Not everyone has to mess with MySQL databases—but if you do, CocoaMySQL is a lifesaver. It provides a graphical and intuitive point-click-edit interface for a decidedly hairy command-line database architecture, greatly simplifying tasks such as defining fields, editing content, fetching specific data, and backing up databases. From an ease-of-use perspective, it's no FileMaker Pro, but it does the job.

### CopyWrite 2.1.1

\$29.99, [www.bartastechnologies.com/products/copywrite](http://www.bartastechnologies.com/products/copywrite) (1.6MB)

Lots of apps claim to streamline the writing process, but CopyWrite actually does it. Your project binder stores each document by category and status to help you find what you're looking for. Live searching highlights the term in matching documents. A drawer holds notes and useful URLs for each document and for the project overall, while a live word count and goal meter keep you on target.





# Utilities

These apps excel at tasks you'd pay big bucks to get in a pretty shrink-wrapped box.

## CLASSIC

### Carbon Copy Cloner 2.3

\$5, [www.bombich.com/software/ccc.html](http://www.bombich.com/software/ccc.html) (2MB)  
Dump the contents of one hard drive to another, creating a bootable backup.

### CDFinder 4.2.2

\$25, [www.cdfinder.de](http://www.cdfinder.de) (1.4MB)  
Automatically store a ton of data about CDs into catalogs on your hard drive.

### Chicken of the VNC 1.3.6

Free, <http://sourceforge.net/projects/cotvnc> (316KB)  
Control another Mac remotely

with this VNC (virtual network computing) client.

## GEEK ALERT

### CronniX 2.1

Free, [www.koch-schmidt.de/cronnix](http://www.koch-schmidt.de/cronnix) (2.6MB)  
Launch programs and run scripts at times and dates of your choosing.

### Keyboard Maestro 1.2.3

\$20, [www.keyboardmaestro.com](http://www.keyboardmaestro.com) (4.6MB)  
Create hot keys for just about any task imaginable.

### OmniDiskSweeper 1.4

Free, [www.omnigroup.com](http://www.omnigroup.com)

[/applications/omnidisksweeper](#) (2.9MB)  
List all of the files and folders on a specified disk in a column view sorted by size.

### Salling Clicker 2.1

\$19.95, <http://homepage.mac.com/jonassalling/Shareware/Clicker> (4.2MB)  
Control your Mac from any compatible Bluetooth phone or Palm OS PDA.

### Share My Desktop 1.2

Free, [www.bombich.com/software/smd.html](http://www.bombich.com/software/smd.html) (708KB)  
Set up your Mac as a server

for the industry-standard VNC protocol.

## CLASSIC

### USB Overdrive X 10.3

\$20, [www.usboverdrive.com](http://www.usboverdrive.com) (1.1MB)  
Take advantage of every button on your multibutton mouse or a gamepad.

## CLASSIC

### VueScan 8.0.10

\$59.95 (Standard) or \$79.95 (Professional), [www.hamrick.com/vsm.html](http://www.hamrick.com/vsm.html) (2MB)  
Use your old scanner in Mac OS X—VueScan supports over 120 different models.

## Listen&Type X3.0

\$20, [www.nattaworks.com](http://www.nattaworks.com) (488KB)

Most of us can't type fast enough to transcribe recordings of lectures or interviews, as anyone who has switched between a word processor and a sound app will tell you. Listen&Type's floating translucent player has definable hot keys to play, pause, skip back 5 seconds, and so forth. Since your fingers stay on the keyboard, you can transcribe without breaking your stride.

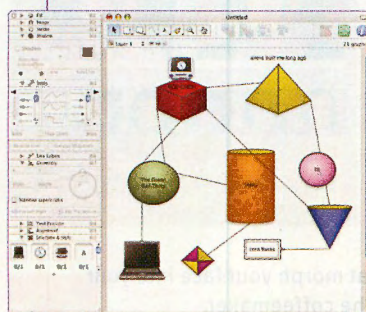
## MacJournal 2.5.2

Free, <http://homepage.mac.com/dschimpf> (5.6MB)

Indulge your inner Marcia Brady. MacJournal lets you keep multiple journals and can post entries directly to LiveJournal and Blogger-enabled sites. It also exports to RTF and HTML, and features password protection and encryption so no one else can read about your crush on Desi Arnaz Jr. While MacJournal is designed for journals, it's actually a great tool for all sorts of writing—such as an article about shareware.

## OmniGraffle 3.1.2

\$69.95, [www.omnigroup.com/products/omnigraffle](http://www.omnigroup.com/products/omnigraffle) (28.2MB)



A well-designed OmniGraffle diagram is worth a thousand words—or more.

Yes, it's available at retail, but the OmniGraffle demo is still a free download, it's still free in limited form, and you can still register online to pay for and unlock a full copy. So what does it do, you ask? Charting and diagramming, friends—and it does it so well that OmniGraffle fans worship

it as if it appeared one day in a shimmering ray of light from above. Try it out and you'll find that you can diagram anything.

## Snail Mail 0.5.1

Free, <http://nixanz.com/products/snailmail/README.html> (556KB)

If you don't have Microsoft Word, you may covet its ability to print envelopes and labels with those nifty postal bar codes that can shave a day or so off your letter's transit time. Snail Mail does just that, and integrates fully with the Mac OS X Address Book. You can tweak the envelope formatting to your liking, and the program supports both U.S. and Australian postal codes.

## CLASSIC

## StickyBrain 2.0.2

\$29.99, [www.chronosnet.com/Products/sb\\_product.html](http://www.chronosnet.com/Products/sb_product.html) (3.3MB)

StickyBrain can help organize every scrap of info you know you need to keep but don't know where to keep. Its stickies are just like Apple's Stickies, except that they can hold check boxes, sounds, live Web links, movies, and files. And you can set alarms in them. And they're categorizable and searchable. And they can be full-on windows instead of just note windows. And about a million other things...but otherwise they're just like Apple's.

## SubEthaEdit 2.0.1

Free, [www.codingmonkeys.de/subethaedit](http://www.codingmonkeys.de/subethaedit) (7MB)

Why do its fans talk about SubEthaEdit in hushed and



StickyBrain's stickies are like Apple's Stickies—but far more useful.



reverent tones? It's a text editor with syntax coloring and all of those other standard coding features that the geeks love so much, but its real draw is collaborative editing: Several users on a network can all connect to and edit the same document at the same time, with each user's changes color-coded for clarity. It sounds like chaos, but collaborative writers and coders insist it's a great time-saver.

## Ten Thumbs Typing Tutor 3.0.1

**\$25.95, [www.tenthumbstypingtutor.com](http://www.tenthumbstypingtutor.com) (4.4MB)**

If you hunt and peck, your lack of keyboard mastery will always be one big productivity bottleneck. Whatever your skill level, the proven method and constant feedback of

Ten Thumbs will teach your fingers to fly. It supports both QWERTY and Dvorak keyboard layouts, and its two built-in typing games make learning fun. Where else, for example, will a Viking teach you about posture?

## WordService 2.5.1

**Free, [www.devon-technologies.com/products/freeware/freeware.php](http://www.devon-technologies.com/products/freeware/freeware.php) (248KB)**

WordService provides you with a systemwide word-count function—and a lot more. Convert quotes and paragraph returns, insert times and dates, change capitalization, and more, all on any selected text in any Cocoa app (and many Carbon ones), thanks to OS X's Services menu.



*With iMovie, Apple brought home-video production to all Mac fans with a Spielberg complex; the rest of us are happy to kick back and watch what others are churning out. Here we have apps for both camps.*

## EvoCam 3.4

**\$20, [www.evological.com/evocam.html](http://www.evological.com/evocam.html) (1.9MB)**

Looking for something to do with your DV camcorder when you're not out playing Scorsese? Use it as a Webcam. EvoCam has a ton of features and options, and can integrate with any existing server setup—but the simplest thing to do is fire up its built-in Web server. When people visit your site with a Java-enabled browser, they get a real, live, continuously updated video image from your camera. Are you ready for your close-up?

## GCam 1.2

**Free, [www.macmice.com/gcam.html](http://www.macmice.com/gcam.html) (50KB)**

Got an iSight? A Webcam? A DV cam? Install GCam, and you instantly have a surprisingly capable video-capture system, with complete access to the QuickTime engine's internal controls: compression, hue,

saturation, brightness, output resolution, and more. Email the resulting MOV files to your friends, or drop 'em into iMovie, Final Cut Pro, or any app that accepts MOV files. The price is right as well.

## iStopMotion 1.3

**\$39.95, [www.istopmotion.com](http://www.istopmotion.com) (1.3MB)**

Stop-motion animation is a grueling and error-prone process—unless you have iStopMotion to ease the pain. iStopMotion captures each frame from your FireWire cam and superimposes a ghost image of the previous shot on the video feed to show you exactly how much your objects move between frames. When you're done shooting, iStopMotion exports right to DV for editing. Oh, and it does time-lapse footage too.

## iTMS Extractor 1.0

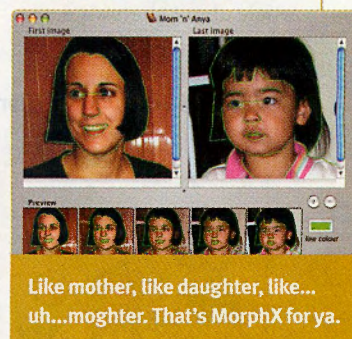
**Free, <http://isophonic.net> (2.7MB)**

iTMS Extractor is a fine example of software that bestows a small convenience upon your life and then gets out of your way. All it does is let you save that last QuickTime movie trailer or music video you watched at the iTunes Music Store. That's it. But if you wanted to watch that Pixies video on your PowerBook later without a Net connection, that's enough.

## MorphX 2.7.1

**Free, [www.norrkross.com/software/morphx/MorphX.php](http://www.norrkross.com/software/morphx/MorphX.php) (624KB)**

The year 1991's superhot CGI effect comes to your Mac—this time for free. Drag two images into MorphX, then click to outline corresponding structures in both images, and MorphX does the heavy lifting of pushing, pulling, stretching, and fading to fill in all the frames between Point A and Point B. The upshot? You can generate QuickTime movies that morph your face into your kid's, or Homer Simpson's, or the coffeemaker.



How can an app this tiny give you so much control over your video?





# Whatever . . .

These gems are just quirky enough to defy categorization—let's hear it for rugged individualism!

## Anagrammar 2.1.0

\$9, [www.signwave.co.uk/products/anagrammar](http://www.signwave.co.uk/products/anagrammar) (1.7MB)  
If your Mac's microphone picks up any noise, this presentation app scrambles text for effect.

## DV Backup 1.3.1r13

\$50, [www.coolatoola.com](http://www.coolatoola.com) (1MB)  
This full-featured backup utility can archive your data to tape in a FireWire DV camera.

## FinderScape 1.01

\$10, <http://homepage.mac.com/davidahmed/finderscape.html> (1.7MB)  
Go strolling through a 3D landscape that contains your Mac's entire file system.

## Issa 1.1 (1.2MB)

\$10, [www.sticksoftware.com/software/Issa.html](http://www.sticksoftware.com/software/Issa.html) (1.2MB)  
Here's refrigerator poetry done right, with importable word lists, a Find command, and more to help you locate *le mot juste*.

## Jared, Butcher of Song 1.01

Free, [www.freeverse.com/mac](http://www.freeverse.com/mac) (715KB)  
This tone-deaf animated warbler will destroy any respect you ever had for Guatemalan folk music.

## MacStumbler 0.75b

Free, [www.macstumbler.com](http://www.macstumbler.com) (600KB)  
MacStumbler will show you wireless networks within range and tell you if they're encrypted—you can get free Net access in some surprising locations.

## Maya Paint Effects Screen Saver X 1.0

Free, [www.versiontracker.com/dyn/moreinfo/macosx/8344](http://www.versiontracker.com/dyn/moreinfo/macosx/8344) (5MB)  
Lightning and feathers? Fingers and razor wire? This screensaver renders these and more. Amazingly, it all looks good.

## MiracleSight 1.0

Free, [www.boinx.com/miraclesight](http://www.boinx.com/miraclesight) (432KB)  
Use your FireWire cam to turn your Mac into a psychedelic mirror. Happy trails!

## N.A.G. 1.0

Free, [www.turbulence.org/Works/freeman](http://www.turbulence.org/Works/freeman) (3.6MB)  
Download random songs from the Gnutella network and mix bits from each in real time.

## Netflix Freak 1.2.1

\$15, [www.thelittleappfactory.com/software/netflixfreak.php](http://www.thelittleappfactory.com/software/netflixfreak.php) (1.6MB)  
Search the Netflix DVD-rental service, and manage your rentals quickly and easily.



Create effects that put 1980s music videos to shame.

## MovieEdit3D 0.90

\$10, [www.trixsoftware.com/MovieEdit3D.html](http://www.trixsoftware.com/MovieEdit3D.html) (1.1MB)  
MovieEdit3D applies a number of 3D warping effects to multiple DV clips and spits out new DV footage suitable for editing in iMovie and other apps. You control which effects to apply to each clip, and set keyframes on the timeline to control

each clip's movement, scaling, and rotation. You can, for example, make a clip warp into a cylinder as it flies from one edge of the screen to the other.

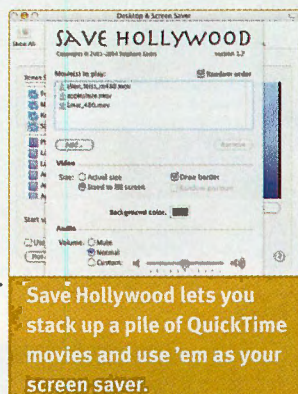
## Multimedia Tiler 1.5.1

\$9.95, [www.chaoticsoftware.com/ProductPages/MultimediaTiler.html](http://www.chaoticsoftware.com/ProductPages/MultimediaTiler.html) (796KB)

When it comes to watching video, what's with this one-at-a-time business? Oh, sure, there's picture-in-picture on your TV, but that's for lightweights. Multimedia Tiler can, well, tile multimedia and show you as many videos simultaneously as your poor Mac can handle, looping or switching randomly as you choose.

## QTVR Recorder 1.01

\$19.95, [www.longfingers.com/qtvrrecorder](http://www.longfingers.com/qtvrrecorder) (4.1MB)  
You need a fast Mac and a lot of patience, but with QTVR Recorder you can record your interaction with a QuickTime VR movie and save it as iMovie-ready DV footage. Grab a panorama of Times Square from Apple's Cubic QTVR Gallery ([www.apple.com/quicktime/gallery/cubicvr](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/gallery/cubicvr)), and before long you can have footage of creepy zooms and spins among frozen people in the city that never sleeps.



Save Hollywood lets you stack up a pile of QuickTime movies and use 'em as your screen saver.

## SaveHollywood 1.7

Free, <http://s.sudre.free.fr/Software/SaveHollywood.html> (248KB)

How better to use all those music videos and movie trailers you saved than to play them back full-screen during your Mac's idle moments? SaveHollywood is a model of simplicity—add a selection of QuickTime movies to the playlist, set a few options (random playback, scale to fit, audio level), and you've got a video screen saver, perfect for marketing kiosks.

## CLASSIC

## VLC Media Player 0.7.2

Free, <http://videolan.org/vlc> (7MB)

If it's a video file and QuickTime can't play it, there's a good chance VLC will. VLC is an open-source video player that handles a slew of formats, including the ever-popular MPEG-2 and DivX (which QuickTime can't play, at least not without help). It also plays DVDs and Video CDs, and can even stream video to other systems on the local network. A must-have app—especially considering that it's free. ■



MPEG-2? QuickTime needs a \$20 plug-in, but VLC Media Player plays it just fine.



Jack Miller is all about sharing—especially screenshots featuring the World's Cutest Kid. You can send compliments via his Web site at [www.appleturns.com](http://www.appleturns.com).



# SCANNER



Are today's scanners inexpensive—or just cheap? *MacAddict* pits 11 budget models against each other to find out which ones reign supreme.



# WARS



BY JEFFY MILSTEAD

Most of the digital cameras to get images into our Macs these days, but flatbed scanners still have their place in a well-equipped Mac arsenal. How else would you be able to digitize your shoeboxes full of old pictures, 35mm slides and filmstrips, or paper documents and newspaper clippings? For these chores, a scanner is your best bet.

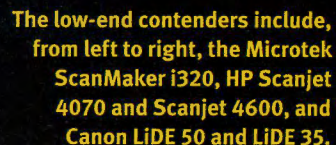
To help you track down the best scanner for your individual needs—and credit limit—we rounded up 11 scanners in the budget-conscious \$79.99-to-\$299 range. Although there are more expensive scanners out there, unless you're a high-powered publishing pro, a quality budget scanner may be all you need. Read on to find out which ones are worthy of adoption.



All of the models featured here are good for general-purpose scanning, and many offer transparency support for scanning slides. We separated the scanners into three categories: the Bargain Bin (under \$130), the Middleweights (\$150), and the Bargain Splurges (over \$200).

4600 and ScanJet 4070 (\$129.99 each, [www.hp.com](http://www.hp.com)), and Microtek's ScanMaker i320 (\$129, [www.microtekusa.com](http://www.microtekusa.com)). We tested four Middleweights: Canon's CanoScan LiDE 80 and 8000F (\$149.99 each), Epson's Perfection 2580 (\$149, [www.epson.com](http://www.epson.com)), and Microtek's ScanMaker s400 (\$149). Move up to the Bargain Splurges, and we'll introduce you to Epson's Perfection 4180 (\$249) and Microtek's ScanMaker 6100 Pro (\$299).

A small price tag is a big attraction when you're shopping, but price alone won't tell the whole story about a scanner's quality or features—that's where we come in. If you're looking for an all-purpose scanner that won't leave you in the poor house, here's how our Bargain Bin contenders fared. (Note: Though some scanners support transparency-scanning in this low-price group, we tested only reflective scanning.)







## Microtek ScanMaker i320 (\$129) ●●●●●



**REQUIREMENTS:** Power Mac, Mac OS 9.x or 10.1.3 or later, 128MB RAM (256MB recommended for Digital ICE), USB port

**SPECIFICATIONS:** 3,200-by-6,400-dpi hardware resolution, 48-bit color, 8.5-by-11.7-inch reflective scanning bed, LightLid 35 transparency adapter (included), USB 2.0

With its high resolution, brilliant Digital ICE software, transparency capability, and accurate color, Microtek's ScanMaker i320 is our pick for the best Bargain Binner. Though it was the slowpoke of the bunch (see "Speed Test: By the Numbers," p38), it delivered the widest tonal range, captured good detail (although the two bargain Canon scanners did a better job), and produced good-quality images. Its only shortcomings were that its scanned images were a bit soft and that the color, while accurate, was somewhat neutral, making scans look a little washed out.



The ScanMaker i320's biggest draw is its PictuRescue software, which employs Digital ICE (Image Correction Enhancement) technology to automatically repair old photos; it removed all scratches and smudges from our moderately abused print (why sweat and struggle to do the same in Photoshop?). Unfortunately, the feature

works only with prints, not with transparencies. Another big bonus is that it's bundled with Adobe Photoshop Elements 2.0 (with a scan-import plug-in). Microtek's ScanWizard software's features are extensive, but it doesn't support scanning using industry-standard TWAIN drivers. Still, for general-use scanning and to fix worn-and-torn prints, the i320 is a winner. We highly recommend it.

## Runner-Up: Canon CanoScan LiDE 50 (\$99.99) ●●●●●

**REQUIREMENTS:** Power Mac, Mac OS 9.x or 10.1 or later, 128MB RAM, USB port

**SPECIFICATIONS:** 1,200-by-2,400-dpi hardware resolution, 48-bit color, 8.5-by-11.7-inch reflective scanning bed, bus-powered USB 2.0

The Canon LiDE 50 is virtually identical to its LiDE 35 brother, so it was no surprise that the two performed almost identically. However, with its good picture-scan quality, its great detail and sharpness, and the inclusion of Photoshop Elements 2.0 in its software and plug-in bundle, the LiDE 50 won out. When you consider that Elements alone would cost you \$99, the LiDE 50 is a steal.



The LiDE 50 clocked decent scan speeds, though the HPs were faster. It also features an expansion top for scanning bulkier items and offers the nice cord-busting benefit of being USB-powered. But the LiDE 50 isn't perfect. In our tests, color was way off the mark. Colors skewed toward red in all of our scans, and although the scans had a good tonal range overall, detail in the darker tones came out black.

The LiDE 50 does include a TWAIN driver that allows you to access the scanner via TWAIN-compatible apps such as Photoshop Elements or Image Capture. For a general-use scanner that includes Photoshop Elements 2.0, the LiDE 50 is a good bet.

## Third Place: Canon CanoScan LiDE 35 (\$79.99) ●●●●●

**REQUIREMENTS:** G3 or faster, Mac OS 10.1.3 or later, 128MB RAM, USB port

**SPECIFICATIONS:** 1,200-by-2,400-dpi hardware resolution, 48-bit color, 8.5-by-11.7-inch reflective scanning bed, bus-powered USB 2.0

Like its fraternal twin, the Canon LiDE 35 captured great detail and sharpness along with good tonal range to garner third place. Like the LiDE 50, the LiDE 35 also shifted colors to red in all of our scan tests (especially in skin tones) and tended to compress dark tones to black.

The LiDE 35 displayed a little bit better color than its sibling (though by no means accurate), so in that regard, the LiDE 35 gets a micronotch up on the LiDE 50, but the LiDE 50 beat the LiDE 35 in our 300-dpi scan speed tests (the 600-dpi times were almost the same). The LiDE 35 also features an expansion top, is USB-powered, and ships with a TWAIN driver. It doesn't include



Photoshop Elements, but it does offer a decent software bundle that includes ArcSoft PhotoStudio (an image editor) and ArcSoft PhotoBase (an image cataloger), both of which are also bundled with the LiDE 50.

If you're looking for a good scanner at a good price and don't need Photoshop Elements, the LiDE 35 is a comfortable choice.

## How We Tested

To determine which scanners would rule MacAddictdom, we graded each contender based on its image reproduction, and then factored in its speed. We scanned a finely engraved British 20-pound note and a 4-by-6-inch photo at 300- and 600-dpi (dots per inch) on each scanner (via reflective scanning), using each scanner's default settings, and noted the preview times (how long the scanner took to create a prescanned version of an image) and the actual scanning times. We also scanned Kodak's venerable Q60, a card that contains a target made up of color gradients and grayscale

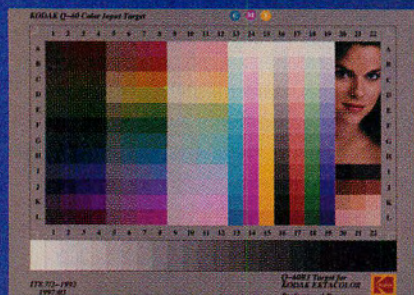
steps that's widely used for testing the color accuracy of professional photographic equipment (see "Judgement Day," p36). With the Middleweights and Bargain Splurges, we scanned color slides and a Q60 slide at 2,400 dpi to test transparency reproduction. We then examined the resulting files and graded each scanner on its color accuracy, level of detail, sharpness, tonal range, and overall picture quality.

Certain models gave us more bang for our buck while others offered more misery for our money. As the saying goes, your mileage may vary.



# Judgement Day

We can't print all of our scan results here, but here's a sample of some notable and notorious scans.



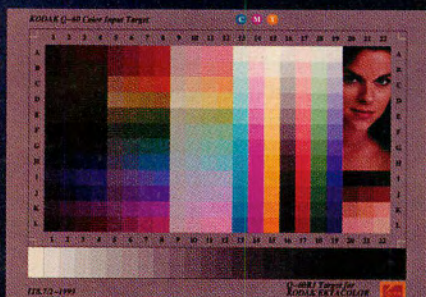
The Microtek ScanMaker i320 (our Bargain Bin winner) displayed the best tonal range in its class, though the color is a bit washed out in this Q60 scan.



The HP Scanjet 4600's scans look OK at first glance, but disaster lies in its lack of detail.



Though our magazine's ink and paper can't do it justice, this slide scan from the Epson Perfection 4180 (our Bargain Splurge winner) displays great tonal range, shadow detail, and accurate color.



Things looked rosy with the Canon CanoScan LiDE 35; unfortunately, this wasn't a good thing.

## Fourth Place: HP Scanjet 4070

(\$129.99) ●●●●●●

**REQUIREMENTS:** G3 or faster Mac, Mac OS 10.1.5 or later, 128MB RAM, USB port  
**SPECIFICATIONS:** 2,400-by-2,400-dpi hardware resolution, 48-bit color, 8.5-by-11.7-inch reflective scanning bed, built-in transparency support, USB 2.0

The Scanjet 4070 has a good mix of features: speedy scan times, built-in transparency support, and an integrated holder for scanning 4 by 6 prints—what's not to like? How about a lack of Mac documentation, marginal image quality, and the scanner's Image Zone software, which stumbled over itself like a drunk trying to find his way back to the frat house.

The software installed a faulty Photoshop plug-in, which locked up Photoshop Elements every time we tried quitting.



To its credit, HP warns you about this situation in a Read Me file, though it's buried several layers deep in the installed HP folder on your hard drive. To our befuddlement, HP also supplies a replacement plug-in that

works—too bad it doesn't install by default, but instead lies in wait for you to discover it at the root of the install CD.

The 4070's scans were average in detail, and color displayed a slight reddish shift. Its tonal range was second to the i320, with good detail in darker areas. But our scans displayed some image noise and color break-up—especially in our Q60 scan. We also subtracted points because HP doesn't provide downloadable drivers for this scanner from its Web site (instead, it can ship you a CD for \$9.95 in shipping). Though the scanned images looked decent, the 4070's software troubles were enough of a blunder to thwart our recommendation.

## Fifth Place: HP Scanjet 4600

(\$129.99) ●●●●●●

**REQUIREMENTS:** Power Mac, Mac OS 9.1 to 9.x or 10.1.5 or later, 128MB RAM, USB port

**SPECIFICATIONS:** 2,400-by-2,400-dpi hardware resolution, 48-bit color, 8.5-by-11.7-inch reflective scanning bed, USB 2.0

Less than an inch tall without its base, the Scanjet 4600 looks more like a picture frame than a scanner. Not only does it look different, its design lets you scan different too, enabling you to lay the scanner directly on top of the item you wish to scan instead of the other way around. Too bad it makes a better picture frame than a scanner.



As with anything, the devil is in the details, and detail is something the 4600 lacks. Our scans

looked muddy, soft, and blurred, and a heap of pixel noise sprinkled images like sugar on donuts. The 4600 also produced red-tinged scans and had the worst tonal range we saw (or didn't see, actually). However, it was one of the fastest scanners in its field.

The 4600 ships with the usual scanner bundle of image-editing and OCR software; HP Director serves as the scanner's command center but doesn't support TWAIN. If you're a glutton for punishment and lust after cool-looking tech toys, this expensive picture frame is for you.

## Conclusion: The Bargain Bin

In the case of our Bargain Bidders, you get what you pay for. While we recommend the Microtek ScanMaker i320, we'd rather spend extra to buy a Middleweight contender than scrimp and get any of the other four.



# The Middleweights

## \$150 Scanners

If you're more graphics savvy, step up to a more sophisticated scanner. For a few bucks more, you can get a scanner with features that border on professional, such as transparency scanning (to digitize your slides and filmstrips) and higher scan resolutions. If big, high-quality resolution and film-scanning capability at a nice price is your goal, these results should interest you.



Meet our Middleweights (from top to bottom); the Canon LiDE 80 and CanoScan 8000F, Epson Perfection 2580, and Microtek ScanMaker s400.



### Epson Perfection 2580

(\$149) ●●●●●



**REQUIREMENTS:** Power Mac, Mac OS 9.1 to 9.x or 10.2.7 or later, 128MB RAM, USB port

**SPECIFICATIONS:** 2,400-by-4,800-dpi hardware resolution, 48-bit color, 8.5-by-11.7-inch reflective scanning bed, built-in Auto Film Loader for transparency scanning, USB 2.0

No scanner captured perfect detail in our tests, but the Epson Perfection 2580 got pretty darn close, earning top honors in its class. In our print-scanning tests, the 2580 produced very good color accuracy (second in its class) and the best sharpness, and reproduced the greatest tonal range—although some scans showed a slight muddiness in very dark areas. With slides, the 2580 produced the best image quality and color accuracy compared to the competition. It was also one of the speedier scanners.

What makes the 2580 truly unique is its built-in Auto Film Loader, which allows you to scan

entire filmstrips by feeding them through a slot in the lid. Epson warns that the feeder may jam if you give it a filmstrip with either less than two or more than seven frames, or if the film has too much curl. Our strips scanned with nary a hitch, but we're vigilant about our film upkeep.

The 2580 software bundle includes image-editing and OCR software, as well as a TWAIN driver. If you want a great-quality scanner that can quickly capture prints and film without hassle and that can reproduce beautiful images with very good color accuracy, we highly recommend the Perfection 2580.



### Runner-Up: Canon CanoScan LiDE 80

(\$149.99) ●●●●●

**REQUIREMENTS:** Power Mac, Mac OS 9.1 to 9.x or 10.1 or later, 128MB RAM, USB port

**SPECIFICATIONS:** 2,400-by-4,800-dpi hardware resolution, 48-bit color, 8.5-by-11.7-inch reflective scanning bed, transparency scanning via Film Transparency Unit (included), bus-powered USB 2.0

Building on the same sleek form factor as the other two LiDE models featured in our Bargain Bin roundup, the CanoScan LiDE 80 ups the ante with higher resolution, transparency scanning, and a sassy brushed metal lid. Unlike its brothers, the LiDE 80 reproduced accurate color, earning it second place.

The LiDE 80 ran neck-and-neck with the Perfection 2580, taking top honors in overall image quality in our photo-scan tests and color fidelity across the board for both print and film scanning.

However, its Film Transparency Unit only accepts filmstrips or cut film—not mounted slides—and can only scan one film frame at a time. It also clocked surprisingly slow scan times with our 600-dpi print-scan test, though it was on par in other tests.

The scanner also wins points for its portability, bus-powered USB, Photoshop Elements 2.0 bundling (among other apps), and TWAIN support. If you want great quality and true portability, we recommend the LiDE 80.





## Third Place: Canon CanoScan 8000F (\$149.99) ●●●●●●

**REQUIREMENTS:** Power Mac, Mac OS 9.x or 10.1 or later, 128MB RAM, USB port

**SPECIFICATIONS:** 2,400-by-4,800-dpi hardware resolution, 48-bit color, 8.5-by-11.7-inch reflective scanning bed, built-in 35mm adapter for transparency scanning, USB 2.0

Canon's CanoScan 8000F has some nifty features that make it stand out from the competition. For example, it can scan multiple transparencies in a single pass and features FARE (Film Automatic Retouching and Enhancement) technology,

which helps eliminate dust specks and scratches much like Digital ICE. But compared to the Perfection 2580 and LiDE 80, the CanoScan 8000F was average across the board.

In our print tests, scans displayed decent detail

and color with nice skin tones, but colors tended to shift slightly red. The picture quality was decent, though it would benefit from some sharpening. The killer was transparency scanning, which displayed the worst tonal range of all the transparency scanners, producing dark exposures and red color shifts. When we scanned one of our older prints to test-drive the 8000F's retouching capabilities, we found that FARE wasn't merely fair—it worked rather well, though not as well as ICE.

The 8000F ships with Photoshop Elements 2.0 (plus Canon's standard software bundle) and a TWAIN driver. If you're not Photoshop savvy and want automatic dust and dirt removal, the 8000F is a solid choice—with a few caveats.



## Fourth Place: Microtek ScanMaker s400 (\$149) ●●●●●●

**REQUIREMENTS:** Power Mac, Mac OS 9.x or 10.2 or later, 128MB RAM, USB port

**SPECIFICATIONS:** 4,800-by-9,600-dpi hardware resolution, 48-bit color, 8.5-by-11.7-inch reflective scanning bed, LightLid 35 Plus adapter for transparency scanning, USB 2.0

Microtek's ScanMaker s400, with its high resolution and transparency support, has the specs of a good scanner but falls short in the scan-quality and usability departments.

The included ScanWizard software didn't live up to its name in our tests—we couldn't get it to crop the scan area to the edges of our document even though we

enabled this control (not a problem with the ScanMaker i320). And while Microtek's Photoshop plug-in allows you to launch ScanWizard from inside Photoshop,

we had to manually configure it to send the scanned image to Photoshop.

Scanwise, we found that the s400 was an average player in our detail test, and it produced images with slightly washed-out colors. In our photo scans, the s400 produced decent skin tones and tonal ranges, but the images were very soft, colors shifted green, and some scans displayed banding and color breakup. In the transparency department, the s400 yielded slightly better skin tone accuracy, though colors were washed out.

The s400 ships with Photoshop Elements 2.0 (among other apps) and offers decent features for the price, but its operation isn't as polished as the competition, and therefore it's not a worthy buy in our eyes.



## Conclusion: Middleweights

For a mere 30 bucks more, step up from the Bargain Bin and buy the Epson Perfection 2580 or Canon CanoScan LiDE 80. We recommend both, but if you're scanning filmstrips, go with the Perfection 2580.

## Speed Test: By the Numbers

Image quality is our top priority, but if we're digitizing entire photo albums full of prints, there is indeed a need for speed. Here's how our Bargain Bidders, Middleweights, and Bargain Splurge scanners stacked up in the hare-and-tortoise race. Best times are in bold.

	4-by-6-inch Photo			35mm Slide	
	Preview	300-dpi Scan	600-dpi Scan	Preview	2,400-dpi Scan
<b>BARGAIN BIN</b>					
●●●●●● Microtek ScanMaker i320	0:17	0:58	2:18	<b>0:43</b>	3:19
●●●●●● Canon CanoScan LiDE 50	0:14	0:41	2:05	*	*
●●●●●● Canon CanoScan LiDE 35	0:16	0:40	2:04	*	*
●●●●●● HP Scanjet 4070	0:15	<b>0:26</b>	<b>1:17</b>	1:25	<b>2:24</b>
●●●●●● HP Scanjet 4600	<b>0:13</b>	0:29	2:27	*	*
<b>MIDDLEWEIGHTS</b>					
●●●●●● Epson Perfection 2580	0:12	<b>0:21</b>	1:05	<b>0:25</b>	<b>1:06</b>
●●●●●● Canon CanoScan LiDE 80	0:15	0:35	2:00	<b>0:25</b>	1:28
●●●●●● Canon CanoScan 8000F	<b>0:11</b>	0:33	<b>1:00</b>	1:04	1:44
●●●●●● Microtek ScanMaker s400	0:17	0:38	1:24	0:39	3:53
<b>BUDGET SPLURGES</b>					
●●●●●● Epson Perfection 4180	<b>0:08</b>	<b>0:20</b>	<b>0:56</b>	1:17	<b>1:11</b>
●●●●●● Microtek ScanMaker 6100 Pro	0:18	0:59	2:18	<b>0:45</b>	3:05

\* Doesn't support transparency scanning.



# Bargain Splurges

## Scanners from \$200 to \$299

If you want the beefy resolution and speed of a high-caliber pro scanner, but a price tag more in line with a budget model, these scanners provide similar high-end features for less cash. All you budget-conscious graphics whizzes, listen up—there is hope for you (in the form of a scanner, that is).



If you've got extra cash but don't want to shell out for a costly pro scanner, consider the Microtek ScanMaker 6100 Pro (top) or the Epson Perfection 4180 (bottom).



When freelance writer and insomniac Jeffy Milstead can't sleep, he lies down on his flat bed and scans the ceiling for sheep.



## Epson Perfection 4180

(\$249) ●●●●●●●●



**REQUIREMENTS:** Power Mac, Mac OS 9.1 to 9.x or 10.2 or later, 128MB RAM, USB port

**SPECIFICATIONS:** 4,800-by-9,600-dpi hardware resolution, 48-bit color, 8.5-by-11.7-inch reflective scanning bed, built-in transparency unit, USB 2.0

The Perfection 4180's beefy resolution, great image quality, and good speed earned it the sash and tiara. In our photo-scan tests,



the 4180 was very good at reproducing fine, sharp detail, and it displayed accurate color superior to every other scanner we tested. It also produced great image quality and the blackest blacks we've seen, and showed better gray tone accuracy than its excellent sibling, the Epson 2580.

It did, however, display a slight muddiness in the dark end of its print scans. In our transparency tests, the 4180's scans displayed excellent tonal range, but skin tones came out warmer-toned than the original. Although the sharpness decreased at higher resolutions, the image quality held up with minimal noise.

The scanner features decent Dust Removal and Color Restoration modes, which we used to resurrect faded photos and film of yesteryear to a certain degree. It also comes with a TWAIN driver and film holders. If you want a great-quality scanner capable of producing high-resolution scans, we highly recommend the Perfection 4180.

## Runner-Up: Microtek ScanMaker 6100 Pro (\$299) ●●●●●●●●

**REQUIREMENTS:** Power Mac, Mac OS 9.x or later, 128MB RAM, USB port

**SPECIFICATIONS:** 3,200-by-6,400-dpi hardware resolution, 48-bit color, 8.5-by-11.7-inch reflective scanning bed, built-in transparency unit, USB 2.0

The ScanMaker 6100 Pro's high resolution and built-in transparency unit appealed to us, but its washed-out scans, compressed tonal range, and slow scan times were disappointing.



In our print tests, the 6100 produced a compressed dynamic range and some image noise; the Q60 scan displayed color blocks that blended with neighboring colors instead of standing on their own. Skin tones and gray tones were fairly accurate, although

some of our scans showed some blue-channel deficiencies. In our transparency tests, the 6100 yielded better results, producing good skin tones, though it still displayed a deficiency in the blue channel.

Though the 6100 comes with the lackluster ScanWizard, it also ships with a full version of SilverFast Ai (\$119, [www.silverfast.com](http://www.silverfast.com)). Once we switched to the SilverFast driver, all scans improved, displaying an expanded tonal range and better skin tones, though colors shifted to red. SilverFast also boosted scan times, though we used ScanWizard in our speed tests (in which we used each scanner manufacturers' software). The scanner also ships with Photoshop Elements 2.0. Considering the 6100's competition and price, we suggest looking elsewhere.

## Conclusion: Bargain Splurges

If you want high resolution scans from slides and film negatives, the Epson Perfection 4180 does the best for the price. If you don't need that much resolution, seek out the top two Middleweights. ■



# The Well-

## iPod

**T**here's no shortage of gadgets and gewgaws with which you can accessorize your iPod—and more appear each day. Cases, FM transmitters, power adapters, speakers, media readers—accoutrements abound to help you make the most of your 'Podding experience. Here, we've gathered together 61 of the most delicious accessories available—get ready to feast your eyes on the coolest companions for the world's most popular digital-music player.

## iPod Accessories

by John Poultney  
photography by Mark Madeo

These gadgets work with all iPod models, except where noted. When in doubt, check with the manufacturer about your specific iPod model.



# Equipped iPod

## Audio Gadgets

### 1 Tivoli Audio iPal, \$129.99

Audio genius Henry Kloss designed the iPal, or Portable Audio Laboratory, as a companion amplifier and speaker for the iPod. Equipped with a precision AM/FM tuner dial and a rechargeable NiMH battery, this little box puts out some big, big sound.

### 2 Netalog TransPod FM, \$99.99

This squirrely looking but nice-sounding FM transmitter comes with several cigarette-lighter adapters and angled arms, so it can fit into your car juuust right. Slide in a dockable iPod, and tune in to any unused frequency.

### 3 TenTechnology NaviPod, \$49.95

Ten Technology's NaviPod works as a

remote control for when your iPod is connected to your stereo or powered speakers. Why get up and walk across the room to pause or change tracks when you can do so from 25 feet away?

### 4 Sonnet Technologies PodFreq, \$99.95

Freq out with PodFreq! This zesty little combination holster and FM transmitter has a retro sci-fi look and lets you broadcast your 'Pod's music on any unused FM frequency. The extendable antenna boosts its signal nicely.

### 5 Griffin iTalk, \$39.99

### 6 Griffin iTrip, \$35

### 7 Griffin iTrip mini, \$39.99

The good folks at Griffin consistently come up with cool stuff for iPods (Macs too), including handy devices like the iTalk voice recorder and iTrip FM transmitters. Mobile pirate radio, anyone?

### 8 Monster Cable iSpeaker Portable, \$59.95

### 9 Monster Cable iCarPlay Wireless, \$69.95

### 10 Monster Cable iCarPlay Cassette Adapter, \$19.95

### 11 Monster Cable iCable, \$29.95

### 12 Monster Cable iSplitter, \$9.95

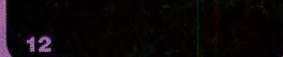
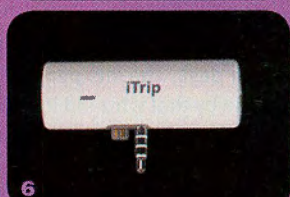
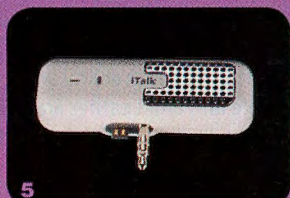
The iSpeaker Portable is a tinny battery-powered speaker, iCarPlay is line-out-to-cassette adapter, and the iCarPlay Wireless is an FM transmitter with eight preset frequencies over which you can broadcast your tunes. The iCable and iSplitter are standard cables fashionably renamed with an *i*.

### 13 Belkin TuneCast II, \$49.99

### 14 Belkin Voice Recorder for iPod, \$59.99

### 15 Belkin Universal Microphone Adapter, \$39.99

Broadcast your iPod on the full range of unused FM frequencies using the TuneCast II. Use the Voice Recorder for iPod or attach an external microphone to your iPod with the Universal Microphone Adapter, and record away. Unfortunately, the (not so) Universal Microphone Adapter can't accept battery-powered microphones, nor will it or the Voice Recorder work with the iPod mini.





**16 Contour Designs Showcase, \$39.95**

Contour Designs' Showcases are tough rubberized plastic cases for the full-sized iPod. A strong latch on the side holds your iPod in place, and a slot on the bottom lets you pop your 'Pod into its dock while in the case. Showcases are available in many colors to match your multiple personalities...er, *moods*: black, blue, white, light blue, green, yellow, red, and pink.

**17 Matias iPod Armor, \$49.99****Matias iPod Armor mini, \$49.99**

These aluminum hard-shell cases protect your 'Pod from overzealous dogs and kids throwing rocks—and when your 'Pod takes a trip to the pavement while you're jogging.

**18 Marware Mini SportSuit Convertible, \$34.95****19 Marware Mini SportSuit Runabout, \$29.95**

Our propensity for wristborne gadgets is well served by Marware's fine Billy Idol-esque Mini SportSuit Runabout and the upper-arm-ready SportSuit Convertible.

**20 Speck Products iPod Skins, \$19.95; \$29.95 3-pack****21 Speck Products FlipStand, \$29.95****Speck Products Mini FlipStand (not pictured), \$29.95****22 Speck Products SkinTight Mini Skins, \$19.95; \$29.95 3-pack****23 Speck Products iSport, \$19.95****24 Speck Products iStyle, \$34.95**

Speck Products has a passel of soft cases up its sleeve. The iSport waist pack sports a blinking light for safety when you take it jogging. FlipStands, for both standard iPods and minis, are clear-plastic hard cases with integrated flip-down stands. The rubberized Skins family includes a model for the standard iPods with a flip-open bottom for dockability and a SkinTight Mini model that has a removable lanyard. Leather and leather-like iStyle cases offer a more-traditional look than the flashy Skins.

**25 MacMice PodPerch, \$9.99****26 MacMice DVBase, \$39.99**

MacMice offers two different ways to protect your iPod's finish by lifting it off your desk. The inexpensive PodPerch looks like something made by that whiz kid in shop class, while the weighty, polished DVBase looks like it's straight outta Q's lab in a James Bond film.

**27 Incase Leather Sleeve, \$24.95****28 Incase Leather Folio, \$29.95****29 Incase Handcrafted Leather Sleeve, \$39.95****30 Incase Mini Leather Sleeve, \$24.95**

Incase makes a lot of cases—we've even seen its name on products sold by other vendors. Stylish iPod owners have quite a few slick choices here, including the earthy-looking Handcrafted Leather Sleeve.

**31 Belkin TuneDock Car Holder, \$29.99****32 Belkin Leather Flip Case, \$29.99****33 Belkin Leather Holster, \$24.99****34 Belkin Neoprene Sport Case with Drawstring, \$24.99**

The buttery Leather Flip Case allows you to access your 'Pod's controls when closed, and provides easy dockability when flipped open. The Leather Holster grips your iPod on its back and sides, leaving the face open for you to manipulate at will. The Neoprene Sport Case ▶

## Cases and Holders





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with Drawstring case holds your iPod nice and snug, and lets you access the controls right through its clear PVC face. The TuneDock Car Holder fits into your cupholder and—like the rest of these cases—fits only the standard-size iPod. An iPod mini version should be available soon.

**35 Red Dye #3 Metal Gear iPod Stand, \$59**

This stand looks like something out of *Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines* and is at home in your car's cupholder or on your desk.

**36 iSkin evo, \$29.99**

**iSkin evo mini, \$24.99**

Also known for its stretchy ProTouch keyboard guards, iSkin also has some sassy little cases for standard and mini 'Pods. The minis come in creatively named colors such as wasabi, vamp, carbon, lava, ghost, and ebony.

**37 RadTech PodSleevez, \$19.95**

**38 RadTech miniSleevez, \$17.95**

**39 RadTech Cocoon, \$39.95**

**40 RadTech iPod mini Skin, \$15.95**

Made of a space-age compound called Optex, the tight-fitting PodSleevez and miniSleevez feel like suede and let you control your iPod right through the material. The Cocoon is a two-piece case with a transparent plastic skin inside a hard outer shell; it has an earbud compartment, a lanyard, and a belt clip. The iPod mini Skin is made of transparent plastic that protects your mini while letting it show its true colors, and comes with a lanyard.

**41 Monster Cable iCase, \$69.95**

**42 Monster Cable iSportCase, \$19.95**

Monster Cable isn't just about cables anymore, as these handy cases attest. The iCase has multiple pockets and pouches, and comes with an iSplitter (see p41) and iCharger cigar-light power adapter. Pop your 10GB to 40GB 'Pod into the iSportCase (available in two sizes), then clip it to your belt or use the included adhesive car mount to stick it on your dashboard.

**43 PodShop PodHolder, \$9.95**

This one reminds us of those halcyon days in high-school Industrial Arts shop class, where we had free reign to heat and bend plastic at will.

**44 MacSkinz iPodSkinz, \$20 front only, \$35 front and back  
MacSkinz iPod mini Skinz (not pictured), \$12 three-pack,  
front and back**

The patterns shown here only scratch the surface of what MacSkinz has to offer. On its Web site, you can find everything from tiger stripes to psychedelic-freakout swirls. The iPodSkinz plastic fits snugly over your iPod's front and back, while the iPod mini Skinz are a kind of tape that wraps around your iPod mini—and that you need to replace every four months.

**45 Other World Computing The Pod Protector, \$15.99**

The close-fitting leather Pod Protector includes a swiveling quick-release belt clip and a clear plastic protective window for your first-generation iPod's display.



## Company Information

**Belkin**

[www.belkin.com](http://www.belkin.com)  
800-223-5546

**Contour Designs**

[www.contourdesign.com](http://www.contourdesign.com)  
800-462-6678

**Griffin Technology**

[www.griffintechology.com](http://www.griffintechology.com)  
615-399-7000

**Incase**

[www.goincase.com](http://www.goincase.com)  
626-338-6400

**iSkin**

[www.iskin.com](http://www.iskin.com)  
416-924-9607

**MacMice**

[www.deskmac.com](http://www.deskmac.com)  
615-822-9270





## Other Stuff

**46 Newer Technology iPod Replacement Battery**, \$29.95 first- and second-gen iPods; \$25.99 third-gen iPods  
Available from Other World Computing, these iPod replacement battery kits include a case-opening tool for easy installation. OWC claims these batteries provide 30 percent more life than the original.

**47 Sendstation PocketDock FireWire/Line Out**, \$29.95  
**Sendstation PocketDock FireWire/USB**, \$22.95  
No need to drag your iPod dock from home to office and back again when you can connect your 'Pod to a standard FireWire cable using a PocketDock. In addition, the PocketDock FireWire/Line Out lets you replace the distortion-prone headphone jack with a line-level signal from the docking port. Convenient? You bet. Just don't lose them—they're dinky.

**48 SiK FireJuice**, \$20.99 to \$35.99

**49 SiK din**, \$21.95

**50 SiK imp**, \$29.95

SiK's FireJuice—available for docking and nondocking iPods—adds power through 4- or 6-pin FireWire ports so that you can use bus-powered devices such as the iPod on computers with unpowered FireWire ports (tell your PC friends). The SiK din adapter has 7-inch leads with line-out and 6-pin FireWire ports, while the imp provides FireWire and line-out, and charges from a standard automotive 12V cigarette lighter socket.

**51 XtremeMac Xtremity Accessory Kit for iPod Mini**, \$29.95  
This accessory kit is all about clips and mounts—we're talking two dashboard mounts, a neck strap, and a Lexan snap-on clip.

**52 Belkin Media Reader for iPod**, \$109.99


**53 Belkin Auto Kit**, \$49.99

**54 Belkin Digital Camera Link**, \$89.99

**55 Belkin Backup Battery Pack**, \$69.99  
Insert your digital camera's CompactFlash (I and II), SmartMedia, Secure Digital, Memory Stick, or MultiMediaCard card into the Media Reader, transfer the files to your iPod, and put 'em on your Mac when you get home. The Auto Kit looks like a boring ol' cigarette-lighter adapter, but it also provides an adjustable line-level volume control. The Digital Camera Link provides a direct link from your USB-equipped digital camera to the iPod (sorry, not for the mini), and a Back-Up Battery Pack with four fresh AA batteries is good for up to 15 hours of use (no mini support here, either).

**56 Griffin PowerPod**, \$24.99

Griffin's PowerPod is a universal charger for all iPod models. If you own a 'Pod from each generation, this is the charger for you. ■

 John Poultnery's iPod is accessorized with tracks from "Shut-Ins Sing Songs of Pain and Joy," the latest CD from his Hulabilly band, the Shut-Ins ([www.theshutins.com](http://www.theshutins.com)).

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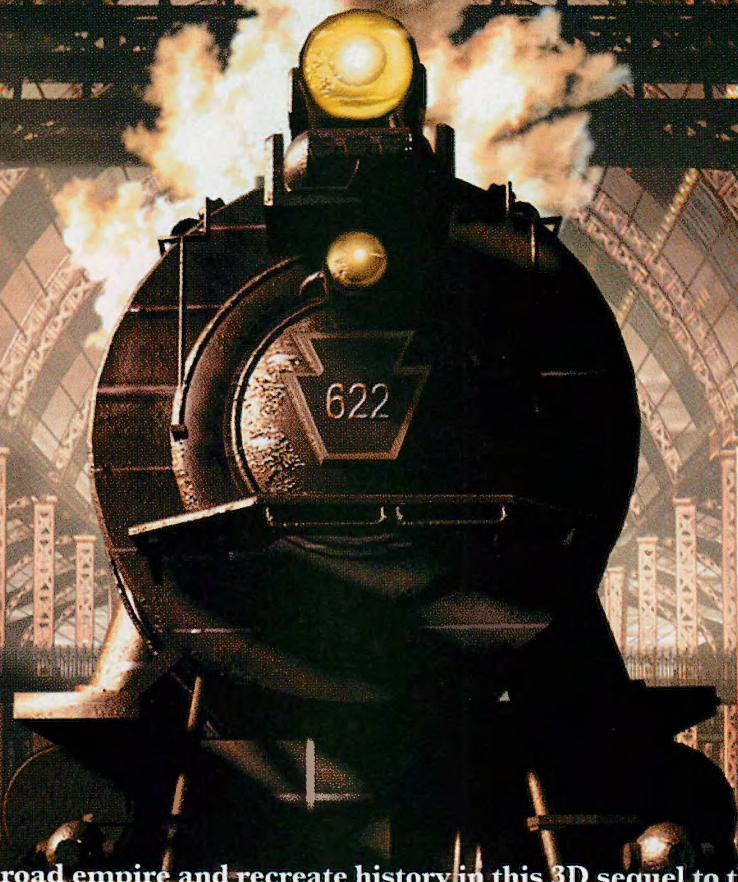
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Proving once again that beauty is in the eye (and the ear and the finger) of the beholder, Apple's latest iPod (pictured) received a mixed reception when it arrived at the MacAddict Trans-Global Headquarters and Pleasure Palace—but whether you prefer the previous four-button design or this season's mini-esque click wheel, it's still a good ol' iPod. Other fun this month comes in the form of a personal video player that works like our vision of a future iPod, AirPort Express, and a wireless setup that works twice as fast as the fastest AirPort. In the near future, we'll try out the new dream-Mac setup: a water-cooled Dual 2.5GHz Power Mac G5 with the new 30-inch Cinema mega-Display, plus an awesome MIDI drum set, virtual-amp Guitar Rig, and pro audio software.

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# AirPort Express

POCKET-SIZED WIRELESS BROADBAND  
ROUTER AND MUSIC STREAMER

**F**ive years after revolutionizing networking with AirPort wireless-network cards and broadband-routing Base Stations, Apple is fomenting another revolution.

AirPort Express provides all of the wireless features we've come to love: sharing PPPoE and any other type of broadband Internet connection, USB printer sharing, the ability to extend a network's wireless range by connecting multiple base stations, and WEP and WPA security. Plus, it adds features we didn't even know we needed, such as extreme portability and iTunes music streaming to your home stereo or powered speakers.

The Express is small and minimalist in design: Three ports on one end connect to a cable or DSL modem, USB printer, and 1/8-inch stereo or digital optical Toslink—for sharing the Internet, a USB printer, and powered speakers or a stereo, respectively. But wait, there's more! If you already have an unsecured 802.11b or g wireless network, just plug the AirPort Express into an AC outlet, and the device jumps right on. We had no trouble joining unsecured networks based on hardware (broadband routers and wireless access points) from D-Link,



AirPort Express puts the whole music-streaming network in your pocket.

3Com, Netgear, and, of course, Apple's AirPort Extreme Base Station.

The included AirPort Express Assistant and AirPort Admin Utility make it a breeze to set up and administer AirPort networks. The Express Assistant walks you through every facet of setup to configure the device based on your answers to a sequence of check-box questions, such as whether you're setting up

a new unit or modifying an existing installation, or whether you're joining an existing network or creating a new one—pretty straightforward stuff.

If AirPort Express has an Achilles heel, it's in the security department: We couldn't negotiate the security keys on some non-AirPort networks. But once we disabled security encryption, all of the routers and access points that we tried graciously accepted the AirPort Express into the network. The device can

also act as a signal repeater to extend a network's range, but that trick only works to

extend an AirPort Extreme network.

When we attached the Express directly to a DSL modem, the AirPort Express Assistant sensed our PPPoE account, and presented the appropriate boxes for our account name and password, as well as optional WEP or WPA security. When we plugged the Express into a wall AC outlet in the known vicinity of a wireless network, the device's LED blinked a couple of times, and before we could say, "*Streaming iTunes freakin' rocks!*", the AirPort Express appeared in iTunes' (4.6) AirTunes playback pull-down menu. We suddenly longed for a big house with stereos and speaker sets scattered throughout, just to experience the thrill controlling them all from our Mac.

Of course, there's always room for improvement. In a perfect world, the Express would also have a bridged port or two for wired Ethernet users, a remote, and some sort of what's-playing-now readout. But in this imperfect world, AirPort Express is perfect—for some of us anyway.—*Niko Coucouvanis*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK MADEO

## WANT CABLES WITH THAT?



Monster cables complete the pretty picture.

The AirPort Express is so...white that it'd be an aesthetic crime to use any cables other than the snow-white ones in the AirPort Express Stereo Connection Kit with Monster Cables (\$39, [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)). The kit provides three cables: 1/8-inch analog to left and right RCA, optical digital Toslink (mini-to-standard), and a 6-foot power-extension cord. The cables are right pretty and provide sound that's clear as a bell—but for \$39 you'd think they'd throw in a pearly white Ethernet cable as well.



**COMPANY:** Apple  
**CONTACT:** 800-795-1000,  
[www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)  
**PRICE:** \$129

**REQUIREMENTS:** AirPort- or AirPort Extreme-equipped Mac, Mac OS 10.2.7 (10.3 and iTunes 4.6 required for administration and music streaming)

**GOOD NEWS:** No brain required for setup or use. Superportable. Versatile.  
**BAD NEWS:** No onboard display or controls. No wired-LAN port. Pricey.

**MacAddict RATED**  
GREAT



# DiMage A2

## 8-MEGAPIXEL CAMERA ON VIRTUAL VALIUM

With a new chorus line of 8-megapixel digicams strutting their stuff, the Minolta DiMage A2 is a standout, featuring a state-of-the-art image-stabilizing system; fast f-2.8, 28mm to 200mm (35mm equivalent) zoom lens; and sharp electronic viewfinder (EVF) in addition to an LCD.

Most EVFs make images look like wavy desert mirages. But with at least three times the number of pixels as others in its class, the A2's EVF excels—though when closely examining images, we preferred using the cam's LCD monitor. Both the EVF and LCD swing 90 degrees for easy viewing at comfortable angles, and you can set the cam to automatically switch from one to the other—look through the EVF, and you see the image there; pull away, and the image appears on the LCD. Neat!

The A2 has all the basics—including auto and preset modes such as portrait, action, and landscape—but it's also loaded with advanced features such as an anti-shake mode. (Happily,

in an equal and opposite direction to the camera's motion—Newton's law at work in your digicam—so capturing sharp images is easier in low-light conditions and when you need a smaller aperture for greater depth of field (both of which require longer shutter speeds).

The A2 has an impressive shutter-speed range—30 seconds to 1/4,000 of a second—and several useful flash options. The built-in flash reaches to about 15 feet at ISO 200, and a flash shoe plus a sync socket allow the use of external flash units and studio strobes. A predictive focus system tracks moving subjects, but only if they're not moving too quickly. There's also a continuous advance mode that will capture three images at 1.8 fps while



This lightweight, nicely balanced digicam is a diamond in the rough.

A2's fine-quality JPEG images onto a 128MB CompactFlash card. RAW and TIFF files suck up even more space: Only 10 RAW or 5 TIFF images will fit on the same card. This is a drawback of most high-megapixel cameras, but the A2's TIFF-to-RAW ratio is unusually high.

Picture quality was excellent at ISO 64 and 100, though there was more noise than we would have liked at 200, 400, and 800. We gave the supplied NP-400 Li-ion battery a real workout—we used the LCD monitor a lot and took flash pictures about 50 percent of the time. After taking about 250 shots, it was time to recharge—a solid, if not overly impressive performance. Be sure to buy a spare battery and, while you're at it, a fast SanDisk Ultra II memory card (shame on Minolta for not including one).

The A2 is perfectly balanced, weighs only 1.5 pounds, and has easy-access buttons and dials. Menus are simple and straightforward and none is longer than one screen so there's no tedious scrolling required. Also, the A2 can take auxiliary lenses to extend its zoom range. Though it's a bit pricey compared with other cameras in its class, the A2 will do just about anything you ask of it, making it a great deal.—Arthur H. Bleich

PHOTOGRAPH BY ARTHUR BLEICH



Handheld at 1/4 second at f-9 from about 8 feet away, this paintballer's license plate is fuzzy due to camera motion caused by slow shutter speed and telephoto zoom setting.



When the A2's image-stabilization system is activated under identical conditions, camera shake is eliminated and a dramatic improvement in sharpness occurs.

there's a well-written manual to explain the details.) Under normal circumstances, using the telephoto end of the zoom while shooting magnifies even the slightest movement (especially with slow shutter speeds) and results in an unsharp picture. Activating the anti-shake mode causes the A2's CCD image sensor to move

adjusting the focus for each shot of the series, unlike many cameras that can only nail the focus for the first shot.

High-megapixel cameras allow you to make better large prints (or to blow up smaller sections of your photos without showing pixels), but the downside is that image file sizes are huge. You can squeeze only 15 of the

9

**COMPANY:** Konica Minolta  
**CONTACT:** 800-462-4464,  
www.konicaminolta.com  
**PRICE:** \$1,099 (street)

**REQUIREMENTS:**  
USB-equipped Mac, Mac OS  
8.6 to 9.2 or 10.1 or later

**GOOD NEWS:** Great image stabilization system. Excellent zoom range. Both EVF and LCD monitor swing 90 degrees for versatile viewing.  
**BAD NEWS:** No memory card included. Viewfinder shifts to black and white under low-light conditions. Predictive focus is sluggish.

**MacAddict RATED**  
●●●●●  
**GREAT**





AV400 can tote all the artifacts of your digital life—songs, movies, and snapshots. Its cradle provides drop-in connectivity to your home-entertainment system.

# Pocket Video Recorder AV400

## SMART LITTLE MULTIMEDIA PLAYER AND RECORDER

If you covet the couch-potato lifestyle but aren't home enough to make frequent cheeky imprints on your sofa, here's the gizmo you've been waiting for. The AV400 packs a video player, digital video recorder (DVR, à la TiVo), music player, audio recorder, photo viewer, and 20GB USB 2.0 hard drive into a sleek device that tucks easily into a pocket or purse—perfect for media junkies who have places to go and TV to see. Rather than shell out for several different media gadgets, this all-in-one device—while pricey—satisfied all of our entertainment cravings (except for eating), even though it showed its share of quirks.

Roughly the size of a PDA (4.9 by 3.1 by 0.8 inches), the AV400 sports a 3.5-inch color LCD that displays good

clarity at different viewing angles. It also houses a built-in speaker, built-in mic, headphone/line-out jack, and CompactFlash reader (Archos sells a 4-in-1 CompactFlash Adapter for \$39.95 that adds SD, MMC, SmartMedia, and Memory Stick media support). It ships with a battery charger (battery life was great while listening to music and decent with video playback), remote control, earbuds, case, USB cable, and TV cradle that features composite A/V-in and -out connectors, S-Video, and IR control for video recording (from a TV, cable box, VCR, or satellite connection), as well as boob-tube playback.

The recorder features a customizable icon-driven interface that's easy to navigate. However, like a politician on

a campaign run, the interface flip-flops between its friendly icon appearance, a file list, and a double-list view at the press of a button—which we initially found annoying until we discovered how useful the double-list view was when transferring files from folder to folder.

While it won't replace our iPod, the AV400 is a respectable music player that supports MP3, WAV, and WMA (whoop-de-doo) files—although it doesn't support AAC, so your iTunes Music Store purchases are useless here. Also, it couldn't read exported iTunes Playlists—though we easily created Playlists directly on the player. Archos includes a plug-in that allows you to use iTunes to copy songs to the player. Using information in our music files' ID3



**COMPANY:** Archos

**CONTACT:** 949-609-1483, [www.archos.com](http://www.archos.com)

**PRICE:** \$549.95 (20GB AV420; reviewed here), \$799.95 (80GB AV480)

**REQUIREMENTS:** Power Mac,

Mac OS 9.2.x or OS 10.2.4 or later, USB port

**GOOD NEWS:** Lots of nifty features. Good video recording quality. TV Cradle makes video recording easy.

**BAD NEWS:** Some interface quirkiness. No AAC support. Needs a kickstand.

**MacAddict RATED**



**GREAT**



tags, the player created artist and album folders and neatly stashed our tunes inside them. However, instead of storing folders in its Music folder, the AV400 stuck them all at the root of its hard drive. If you're a neat freak, you'll have to manually move the folders into the Music folder—or else forget the iTunes plug-in, and copy folders from your iTunes Music folder to the player the old-fashioned drag-and-drop way. Audio recording worked well (it saves files as WAVs). We used the built-in mic to record conversations, which turned out loud and clear. You can also hook the unit up to a stereo system for music recording.

We've been looking for a decent photo-viewing device—one that allows us to download digital-camera pics to free up media cards for further shooting when we're away from our Mac—and the AV400 worked like a charm. (Other dedicated viewers we've seen have had smaller screens, smaller hard drives, and/or higher prices.) While the AV400 only supports JPEG viewing, we copied JPEG, TIFF, and RAW files from our CF card lickety-split for Mac downloading later on—and although we generally weed out pics on our camera, RAW and TIFF support would be a nice addition. Once loaded, we rotated pics, viewed them full-screen and as thumbnails, and made a slideshow. It's too bad that the AV400 can't play music and view photos at the same time—we hope that it multitasks in a future incarnation. Another tick against its photo-viewing feature: It can only display JPEGs up to 7MB.

Must-See TV doesn't exactly rule our lives, but the ability to schedule the AV400 to record TV shows, movies, and infomercials across multiple cable channels enabled us to laugh at the wonders of late-night TV without bags under our eyes the next morning. The TV cradle made the video hook-up easy—we just connected it to our cable box (using the composite



The AV400's alternate double-list view makes it surprisingly easy to manage files.

connectors), stuck the included IR emitter onto our box's sensor, and left it. To record, we just slipped the AV400 into the cradle and pressed record—you can also set up a recording schedule and put the device in standby mode. The video (saved as MPEG-4 AVI files) looked great and played smoothly on the LCD, but some of our movies were split across two files, thanks to a funky Windows 2GB maximum-file limitation. You can also play video from the AV400 on your TV, but not on your Mac (unless you convert it with third-party software). One bummer: The AV400 upholds DRM copyright protection, so while you can record a copy-protected source and view it on the unit, you can't play it back on your TV.

Our only big peeve is that the device needs some type of kickstand so that you can prop it up when watching TV—we got tired of holding onto the thing, and the AV400's rounded edges didn't allow us to stand it on edge. Beyond that, we're enjoying our new lives as giddy media pack rats, thanks to the AV400.—Kris Fong



The AV400's intuitive icons make navigating the main interface quick and easy.

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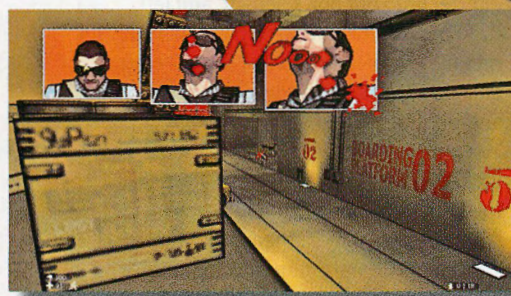
# XIII

## MISSION-BASED SHOOTER WITH OLD-STYLE COMIC FEEL

**B**am! Zap! Ka-Pow! With fond memories of classic comics such as Dick Tracy and Secret Agent X-9, we thoroughly enjoyed playing XIII. A mission-based, first-person shooter, XIII stars you as Jack Rowley (aka Jason Fry, aka Agent Thirteen)—one of an elite tactical group overrun by a conspiracy of traitors plotting to take over the world.

Agent XIII fights alone, so you don't have to worry about any bonehead squadmates blowing your cover when your mission requires stealthy maneuvers, such as taking out guards without sounding the alarm (there's loads of this sneakery—maybe too much). In the realm of mindless shoot-'em-ups, XIII's multiplayer mode pits you against up to five bots or LAN friends in games such as standard Deathmatch, Team Deathmatch, and Capture the Flag, plus a game called The Hunt—an all-against-one fray in which the *one* is a bizarre little furry, white-hooded, Jawa-looking thing. Multiplayer is fun, but it's no Unreal Tournament, and while online play is supported via GameRanger, we couldn't find an in-progress game despite repeated attempts.

The single-player game challenges you to stop the baddies from taking over the world, but just when you think you've foiled their nefarious scheme, you must face Agent II (aka the Mongoose)—a tough varmint. Along the way, we had all kinds of destructive fun: shooting down choppers (with and without the bazooka weapon); blowing up a munitions bunker; using a hostage to escape a mental institution (d'oh! some of the guards shot at us anyway); stalking and silently killing (or neutralizing *without* killing) guards, and dragging their



**XIII makes great use of its comic-strip styling, rewarding long-range headshots with a three-panel death vignette.**

corpses out of sight; crawling through steam vents and swinging from that ol' standby, the trusty grappling hook; and, of course, collecting medkits, weapons, armor, ammo, keys to open locked doors, and other useful loot.

Speaking of weapons, XIII has a fine selection. For maximum stealth, the throwing-knives tactic is perfect for close foes, and a scoped crossbow works for far-off ones. (You can also pick up blunt bludgeoning objects, such as bottles and chairs, for silent, nonlethal dispatch). When you can play loud,

**TIP**

➤ Your foes die relatively slowly and melodramatically, so wait a bit before running over their corpses to liberate any leftover weapons and ammo (you'll need all you can get).

your choices include 9mm and .44-caliber handguns, a shotgun, a sniper rifle, three different machine guns, and the big bazooka. Especially cool is a harpoon launcher you can pick up in the submarine-base level.

The game played fine on both our Power Mac G5 and our 1.25MHz PowerBook, and froze up only once. But although we dig the low-tech flavor, we wish the developers could have splurged on a few more character skins—we got tired of killing the same seven or eight guys over and over on different levels. Also, the game had a habit of forgetting where we saved our progress, so the next time we sat down to continue, we usually had to replay some scenarios.

XIII's comic-strip styling and cell-shading provide a nice break from the recent invasion of cinematic war-based shooters and are a perfect match for the game's plot and Dick Tracy-style melodrama. Bonus: As you sneak into the Sanctuary for a recon mission, there's a postcard sunset to see above one of the most-realistically rendered oceans we've ever seen in a game. It may seem out of place, but it's a nice touch in a great game.—*Niko Coucouvanis*



**COMPANY:** Feral Interactive  
**CONTACT:** +44 0 208 875 1375,  
www.feral.co.uk  
**PRICE:** \$55

**REQUIREMENTS:** 800MHz G3 or faster, Mac OS 10.2.3 or later, 256MB RAM, 1.6GB disk space, 32MB VRAM, DVD drive

**GOOD NEWS:** Cool retro-comics look and attitude.  
**BAD NEWS:** Not enough bad-guy models. Has too much sneaking around for some.

**MacAddict RATED**  
●●●●●  
**GREAT**



# iPod 40GB

## FOURTH-GEN IPOD DIGITAL MUSIC PLAYER

During the time when the iPod earned its essential role in our daily lives, we became a bit spoiled. So much so that when the latest iPod arrived, we expected the same quantum leap in elegance and function that the previous generation provided. We didn't get it.

That's not to say that the new fourth-generation iPod doesn't retain the title of World's Greatest Digital-Music Player. It does. There is, however, considerable debate here at *MacAddict* about a feature that the new iPod borrows from the iPod mini: the click wheel.

The click wheel is an acquired taste—and one that some of our testers don't expect to ever acquire. For starters, its light-gray color and slightly protruding

fit are an aesthetic step down from the touch wheel of its third-generation sibling. The click wheel has the advantage of not requiring that you move your thumb from wheel to button to make selections, but it takes far more pressure to click the wheel or the center button—enough to make the iPod tip over or slide across your desk when mounted in a dock or stand. Third-gen models required only a featherweight tap.

The new iPod sounds as good as earlier models, and its advertised battery life lived up to expectations when given the undemanding task of looping Ravel's *Bolero* for 12 straight hours. New software features such as multiple On-The-Go Playlists, audiobook



**Sometimes new doesn't necessarily mean improved.**

speed adjustment, and the ability to choose song shuffling in the main menu are welcome but hardly earthshaking. If you're looking for a larger iPod at a decent price, pop for the 40GB; if you already have a 40GB third-gen iPod, hang onto it—you may have the most elegant iPod to date.—*Rik Myslewski*



**COMPANY:** Apple  
**CONTACT:** 800-795-1000  
or 408-996-1010, [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)  
**PRICE:** \$399

**REQUIREMENTS:** Mac: Mac OS 10.1.5 or later (Mac OS 10.3 or later recommended); PC: FireWire or USB 2.0 port or card, Windows 2000 with SP 4 or Windows XP Home or Professional

**GOOD NEWS:** Price drop. Battery life improved 50 percent. Same great sound. Same intuitive menus.

**BAD NEWS:** Click wheel and center button require a squeeze, not a mere touch. No backlit buttons.

**MacAddict RATED**  
  
**GREAT**

PHOTOGRAPH BY SAMANTHA BERG

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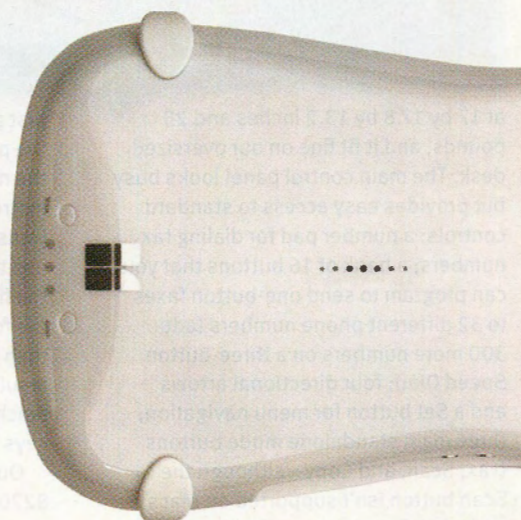
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 **Formac**



# MFC-8220

## HO-HUM MULTIFUNCTION LASER PRINTER

Our relationship with the multitasking MFC-8220 got off to a rocky start as soon as we opened its box and pulled out its Quick Setup Guide. Compared to the poster-sized quick-start guide provided with most printers and scanners, the 8220's 57-page tome made us want to leave the machine in its box. But with a little patience, we found the MFC-8220 capable, if not impressive. The MFC-8220 is relatively petite

adjustments such as scale, quality, and copy contrast, as well as Redial/Pause, Search/Speed Dial, and Hook/Hold for the fax.

After setting up the MFC-8220 and filling its 250-sheet paper tray, our first priority was to turn down the alarm beep that blared every time we pushed a button out of turn and every time we opened the paper tray. Thankfully, the onboard menu is simple to navigate:

a few excruciatingly slow print jobs and a call to Brother's tech support, we discovered that BR-Script was the source of the problem. Once we reloaded the printer driver from the included CD and specified Brother Laser instead of Brother BR-Script 3 in the Print Center, we got close to the printer's claimed 21-ppm speed, and output quality was as good as when we used BR-Script 3.

With all its multifunctionality, we expected to find helpful software in the MFC-8220's box; what we got instead was Presto Page Manager, a jack-of-all-trades utility that was, diplomatically speaking, unimpressive. Besides its generally clunky and cheap-looking interface, it "unexpectedly quit" about half the time when we used action buttons (to send a document to the printer, email, or what have you) and at plenty of other, less-predictable moments. The software usually scans a document when you tell it to, but then it leaves the scan dialog open with absolutely no indication as to whether the machine actually completed the scan or bailed on the job—and you have to press Cancel to escape the dialog. The saving grace here is that Page Manager is unnecessary—it's not required for printing or faxing, and we could scan directly into Photoshop via the Brother TWAIN driver. Scans, however, are black and white only and their quality is marginal—text scans are good enough for OCR, but graphics have mottled gradients and spotty resolution.

The MFC-8220 didn't wow us with its mastery of any specific function (although spamming a fax to hundreds of unique fax numbers simultaneously has its own twisted appeal), but it handled each chore respectably for a multifunction device. If you deal with loads of paper text documents, do a lot of faxing, and avoid using the lame Page Manager software, the MFC-8220 can be a useful assistant. —*Niko Coucouvanis*



Brother's multifunction 8220 prints, scans, faxes, and copies documents—but it can't slice or dice.

at 17 by 17.8 by 13.2 inches and 25 pounds, and it fit fine on our oversized desk. The main control panel looks busy but provides easy access to standard controls: a number pad for dialing fax numbers; a bank of 16 buttons that you can program to send one-button faxes to 32 different phone numbers (add 300 more numbers on a three-button Speed Dial); four directional arrows and a Set button for menu navigation; three main standalone mode buttons (Fax, Scan, and Copy—although the Scan button isn't supported on Macs); and a few function-specific buttons for

Just press the Menu button and follow the prompts onscreen. Interpreting the manual is a different story: The instruction "Press Menu, 1, 4, 2" actually translates to "Press the Menu button, use the arrow and Set keys to select the first option (General Setup), then the fourth option after that (Volume), then the second option (Beeper) in the resulting dialog." But no matter how you reach the menu, you can use the arrow keys to cycle through available settings.

Our next step was to load up the MFC-8220's PostScript emulator—Brother's BR-Script 3—into Print Center. After



**COMPANY:** Brother  
**CONTACT:** 888-879-3232 or  
908-704-1700, [www.brother.com](http://www.brother.com)  
**PRICE:** \$349.99

**REQUIREMENTS:** USB-equipped  
Mac, Mac OS 8.6 to 9.2, 10.1.x, or  
10.2.1 or later

**GOOD NEWS:** Reasonably small footprint.  
Quick scanning and printing. Strong fax features.  
**BAD NEWS:** Lame software. No color scanning.  
Beeps loudly if you offend it.

**MacAddict RATED**  
●●●●●  
**SOLID**



ACTUAL  
CAPACITY.



ACTUAL  
SIZE.

AND IT'S NOT JUST BIGGER. IT'S FASTER.

THE NEW LACIE BIGGER DISK EXTREME, WITH UP TO 1.6 TERABYTES OF STORAGE SPACE, SUPPORTS MULTIPLE STREAMS OF UNCOMPRESSED SD VIDEO. NOW DIGITAL CONTENT CREATORS HAVE THE SIZE AND THE SPEED TO HANDLE THE MOST DEMANDING JOBS. IT'S BIGGER, IT'S FASTER, AND YOU CAN STILL TAKE IT WITH YOU. [WWW.LACIE.COM](http://WWW.LACIE.COM)







**Battlefield's custom 3D engine cranks out huge environments, and some are expansive enough to make a top-shelf Mac stutter.**

sniper-equipped scouts, assault troops, antitank specialists (toting rocket-propelled grenades), medics, and engineers for laying demolition charges and repairing damaged equipment.

However, our big complaint with 1942 is that its gameplay is less action-packed than that of other shooters. For example, your character can die very quickly—you can get pounded by artillery, bombed from the air, shot by a sniper, run over by a jeep, or obliterated by a tank—you name it, you can die from it. Also, once you die and regenerate, it can take a while to get from a *spawn point* (where your character enters the world) back to the real fighting. For example, if you die at the top of a cliff at Omaha Beach, you might respawn on the deck of a nearby destroyer, and then have to hop into a transport, ferry yourself to shore again, and climb the cliff before firing another shot. After a while, this time in transit becomes a drag.

## EXPANSIVE WWII-BASED SHOOTER

**B**attlefield 1942 is the latest in a distinguished list of first-person shooters that put you smack in the middle of World War II. It is, however, different from other battle-based shooters (such as Call of Duty, Medal of Honor, and Return to Castle Wolfenstein) in that even in single-player mode there's no story, and there are neither characters with which you can identify nor scripted missions with to-do lists. Instead, 1942 is simply a big ol' war game based on the familiar Capture the Flag concept; it pits two teams against each other—German, Japanese, and Italian soldiers make up the Axis team, and American, British, Russian, and a few token French soldiers make up the Allies.

Of course, two sides duking it out describes the multiplayer mode of just about any shooter, but here again Battlefield differs. First, its 22 maps—which roughly recreate the battle at Omaha Beach on D-Day, the desert warfare of El Alamein, the Battle of Stalingrad, and the fight for Iwo Jima, among others—are huge outdoor affairs that can take your character several minutes to traverse. These sprawling

maps give battles a truly epic feel, with lots of mini-engagements raging simultaneously. The maps also give teams the elbow room they need to execute flanking tactics, even when there's a full compliment of 64 players on a map—though it's too bad the game doesn't feature a voice chat feature like Unreal Tournament's so that you can coordinate everyone.

Second, most 1942 maps offer a fleet's worth of vehicles to commandeer (jeeps, tanks, boats, bombers, and fighter planes), though you can expect to crash and burn several times before getting your pilot's wings. Vehicles add a lot of spice to combat and foster cooperation between players, as many vehicles can carry multiple soldiers. A bomber is most effective, for example, if you have one grunt to pilot, one to drop the payload, and one to man the machine gun.

The game's numerous maps and vehicles give it plenty of replay value, plenty of weapons, and the option to play one of five soldier classes:



**Battlefield's single-player AI can be iffy sometimes in that enemies and allies often don't react to immediate threats.**

If we could play only one WWII shooter, it wouldn't be 1942; we'd stick with Call of Duty (Sep/04, p52)—the pace of 1942 is just too slow. Still, it's an undeniably fun game, and if you dig the retro-war theme (as opposed to the sci-fi likes of Halo and Unreal), then its huge outdoor maps and vehicles are a great way to relive the '40s.

—Helmut Kobler



**COMPANY:** Aspyr  
**CONTACT:** 888-212-7797,  
www.aspyr.com  
**PRICE:** \$49.99

**REQUIREMENTS:** 867MHz G4  
or faster, Mac OS 10.2.8 or later,  
256MB RAM, 32MB VRAM, 1.6GB  
disk space, DVD drive

**GOOD NEWS:** Huge, realistic outdoor maps. Lots of vehicles, character classes, and weapons. Works with PCs in multiplayer mode.  
**BAD NEWS:** Some dumb AI in single-player mode. Takes a while to get back into action after dying. Can choke a Dual 2GHz G5.

**MacAddict RATED**  
●●●●●  
**GREAT**



# PiXiMation

## EASY-TO-USE QTVR SOFTWARE

QuickTime Virtual Reality (QTVR) object movies are a hoot—they provide an interactive, 360-degree representation of any object, from coffee cup to airplane. Creating QTVR movies, however, traditionally involves expensive gear and the patience to capture and stitch together at least a dozen still photos. PiXiMation changes all that, working directly with a connected Webcam, DV cam, or even

that it's best to shoot at the highest possible settings so that you'll have a good-quality original to work with when you choose compression settings for your final movie or movies. PiXiMation's documentation provides some handy tips on lighting, backgrounds, and rotating the turntable.

The software initially captures a standard QuickTime movie; from there, you pick Begin and End points to isolate

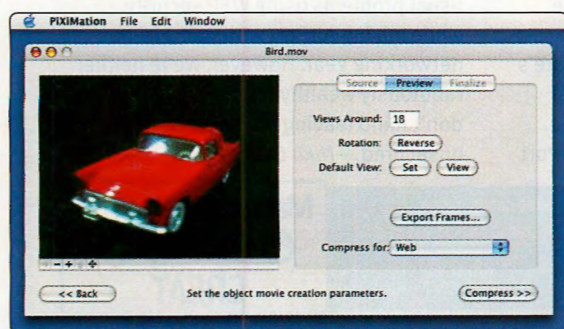
the segment you want to use as your object movie. PiXiMation automatically trims away the extra frames, warning you if there's not enough data for a 360-degree wrap so that you can either adjust the Begin and End points or reshoot.

Once you've defined the segment, pick a type of compression (for email, Web, CD-ROM, or Highest Quality) and export the QTVR file. There's an option to export the frames as

a series of TIFF images to use in another app, but the export options are otherwise limited to Auto Rotation, and the direction and number of revolutions. The viewer controls the object movie's spin with the mouse or arrow keys.

PiXiMation's output was crystal clear, and we saw little difference between footage shot with an expensive DV camera and the modestly priced iSight. Our one quibble is minor: PiXiMation could do a better job of providing visual feedback when an operation is complete: When you finalize and save a movie, the software doesn't tell you when it's completed the save. Such modesty is unwarranted—PiXiMation should brag about how it just provided you with a great QTVR movie without costing you an arm and a leg.

—Tom Lassiter



### PiXiMation turns your toys into QuickTime VR movies.

QuickTime movie files shot with a still camera. We tried PiXiMation with an iSight, a high-end Canon DV cam, and an existing QuickTime movie file, and the software handled all combos without problems.

How easy is PiXiMation? Just mount your subject on a rotating platform and give it a whirl. For most small objects, an inexpensive Lazy Susan-style turntable works fine (Kaidan also sells QTVR turntables from \$14.95 to \$99.95). Setting up and lighting your scene takes much longer than recording the movie in PiXiMation, which is as simple as picking the pixel resolution (from 160 by 120 up to 640 by 480) and video compression



(JPEG 75 percent, JPEG 50 percent, or DV), and pressing the Record button. Keep in mind

#### COMPANY:

Kaidan

CONTACT: 215-364-1778, [www.kaidan.com](http://www.kaidan.com)

PRICE: \$99.95

#### REQUIREMENTS:

Mac OS 10.2 or later; FireWire Webcam, camcorder, or still camera capable of capturing QuickTime clips (iSight recommended)

**GOOD NEWS:** Easy QTVR. No outrageous hardware required.

**BAD NEWS:** Limited to basic QTVR. Doesn't provide much user feedback.

MacAddict RATED



# Laptop Armor

## ALUMINUM NOTEBOOK CASE

Like a Tootsie Roll Pop or stale Fig Newton, Laptop Armor is hard on the outside, but soft and delicious on the inside. Oops—those are removable foam wafers, not chocolate-covered cookie wafers. Better yet, Laptop Armor is soft and custom-fittable on the inside, and tough aluminum (available in white, black, or silver) on the outside.

Designed for protection rather than convenience, this case is heavy (5 pounds) and can't hold much more than a slim power brick, a low-profile travel mouse, and a magazine or three—and that's only if you pack everything just right. Matias demonstrates the case's sturdiness on its Web site in a video of an Armor-clad notebook surviving a 10-foot drop onto concrete. The included detachable shoulder strap and the case's slightly oversize feet helped us avoid any unintended impact testing.

Ultimately, aluminum attachés are just plain cool. As a bonus, this little beauty offers serious protection, and we can afford it without resorting to a life of crime.—Niko Coucouvanis



Handcuffs not included.

#### COMPANY:

Matias

CONTACT: 888-663-4263,

[www.halfkeyboard.com](http://www.halfkeyboard.com)

PRICE: \$149.95 to \$179.95

#### REQUIREMENTS:

'Book in need of protection.

**GOOD NEWS:** Slick look. Solid protection.

**BAD NEWS:** Little room

for stashing snacks or accessories.





## AirPlus Xtreme G DI-624

FAST, CHEAP, AND EASY WIRELESS BROADBAND ROUTER

Much as we love AirPort Express (see p48), it's not the end-all home-networking device. For one thing, it can't serve wired clients over Ethernet. D-Link's AirPlus Xtreme G DI-624 Wireless Router is uglier and has a less-enticing name, but it bridges wired to wireless, costs less than the Express, and delivers twice the wireless speed.

And the AirPlus is nearly plug-and-play, though we did have to peek inside the manual for two key pieces of information: the device's default IP address (the usual 192.168.0.1), user name (Admin), and password (leave this field blank). Once we used that info to log into the onboard, browser-based

configuration tool, it was smooth sailing.

D-Link's Setup Wizard steps you through the four basic settings you need to network together multiple computers sharing one Internet connection: the router's password; the time zone; Internet account info; and the wireless LAN's SSID (name), broadcast channel, and 64- or 128-bit WEP security. The first two are no-brainers, and when we got to Internet settings, the wizard sniffed out our PPPoE account and presented the appropriate blanks for us to fill in.

We used the AirPlus with OrangeWare's double-speed driver (see facing page) and achieved impressive performance. When we used it with AirPort- and AirPort



**D-Link's AirPlus Xtreme connects wired and wireless Macs, and does the wireless part twice as fast as AirPort Extreme.**

Express-equipped Macs, we had the usual problems using WEP security while mixing AirPort with non-AirPort networking gear. However, we're neither fabulously wealthy nor paranoid, so we don't mind leaving our wireless network unsecured.—*Niko Coucouvanis*



**COMPANY:** D-Link  
**CONTACT:** 714-998-9003,  
www.dlink.com  
**PRICE:** \$85, \$65 (street)

**REQUIREMENTS:** Web browser,  
Cable or DSL Internet account

**GOOD NEWS:** Simple, browser-based configuration.  
**BAD NEWS:** Wireless security can stymie AirPort-equipped Macs.

**MacAddict RATED**  
GREAT

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK MADEO

## Internet Postage

CONVENIENT INTERNET POSTAGE SERVICE

More than five years after the USPS authorized third-party Internet postage sales, Endicia offers Internet Postage, the first Mac service that allows you to print postage for all your mail. It was worth the wait.

Signing up for this service online takes only a few minutes—plus a credit card or checking account for buying postage at face value and paying Endicia service fees. Once you receive your account number, returning to Endicia's Web site is optional, as you can handle most of your mailing activities via the SwordfishExpress 2.0 software you download from the Web site when you set up your account.

To create a mailing, you enter the name and address of the recipient, specify the class of service you want (Priority Mail, First-Class Mail, Library Mail, Bound Printed Matter, Media Mail,

or Parcel Post), input the weight of your item, and then indicate whether you desire insurance (offered through U-PIC for \$0.65 per \$100 of coverage) or delivery and signature confirmation.

Printable shipping labels cost between \$0.05 and \$0.15 each; you can print them with or without postage on a Dymo and Zebra Mac-compatible label printer (also available from Endicia), or on any laser or inkjet printer. A mail log tracks all printed labels, allowing you to check delivery status and seamlessly request refunds for printing errors, although filing insurance claims requires visiting the Endicia Web site.

Currently SwordfishExpress can't print directly onto postcards or envelopes, and it doesn't support domestic Express

**The included SwordfishExpress software interface isn't pretty, but it's packed with postage and printing features.**

Mail or any international mail classes—Endicia promises to address these shortcomings. Our only major complaint is that the Mac plan costs 25 percent more than the comparable Windows plan.—*Owen W. Linzmayer*



**COMPANY:** Endicia  
**CONTACT:** 800-576-3279,  
www.endicia.com  
**PRICE:** \$19.95 (per month),

\$199.95 (per year)  
**REQUIREMENTS:** Mac OS 10.2.7  
or later, 128MB RAM, 16MB disk  
space, Internet connection, printer

**GOOD NEWS:** Simple interface. Fast performance.  
Integrated mail log. Discounted mail services.  
**BAD NEWS:** Lacks Express Mail and international support.  
Costs more than Windows version.

**MacAddict RATED**  
GREAT



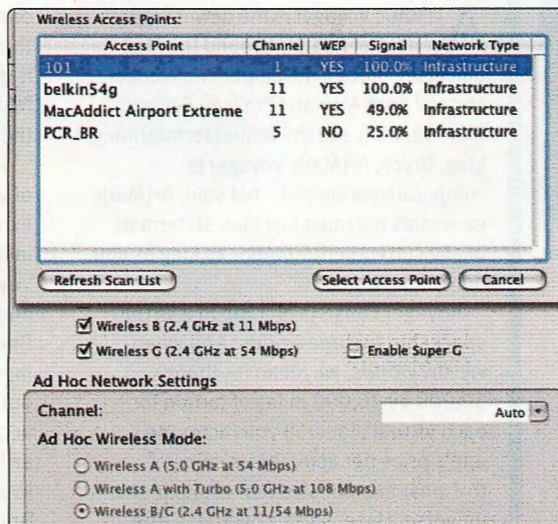
# Wireless Driver for Mac v3.0

## TURBO-CHARGED WIRELESS DRIVER



Wireless networking rocks. The problem is that it's also slow as molasses compared to a wired Ethernet connection. Until now, that is: OrangeWare claims its dully named Wireless Driver for Mac can achieve double the speed of Apple's AirPort Extreme—and we verified that claim with our own stopwatch.

First the bad news for most PowerBook owners and all iBook owners: The Wireless Driver is, well, a driver, and it only works with wireless devices (PCI and PC cards, routers, and access points) based on the new Atheros 5002 series chipset. OrangeWare's Web site has a list of compatible devices ([www.orangeware.com/endusers/wirelessformac.html](http://www.orangeware.com/endusers/wirelessformac.html)), but that list doesn't include any AirPort cards or Base Stations. We found the driver had no trouble connecting to an unsecured AirPort Extreme network, but once we turned on any type of password protection, we couldn't connect.



OrangeWare's driver sniffed out all of our available wireless networks.

The good news is that PC-market wireless routers are cheaper than Apple's Base Stations, and that the Wireless Driver worked with all the cards with which we tried it. We couldn't try every combination of

supported hardware but any brand should work—and if you buy an Atheros-based router, just make sure it uses browser-based configuration software or is otherwise Mac compatible.

So how fast is fast? Keep in mind we're talking theoretical speeds here: The white papers say that Turbo G, the protocol on which the Wireless Driver is based, will max out at 108 Mbps—that's double 802.11g's 54 Mbps. In the real world, top wireless speeds tend to hover around half the spec, and Turbo G is no exception: We achieved sustained speeds of 52 Mbps, which translates to a more impressive sounding 6.5 MBps. We remember when hard drives

were slower.

If you don't mind violating your PowerBook with a PC card instead of an internal AirPort card, get this driver. Just keep in mind you need an Atheros router to match.—*Niko Coucouvanis*



**COMPANY:** OrangeWare  
**CONTACT:** 714-998-9003,  
[www.orangeware.com](http://www.orangeware.com)  
**PRICE:** \$15

**REQUIREMENTS:** Mac OS X,  
wireless adapter and access point  
based on the Atheros 5002 chipset

**GOOD NEWS:** Inexpensive. Effective.  
**BAD NEWS:** Requires specific hardware (but bundled  
with hardware in the near future).

MacAddict RATED  
GREAT

# DWL-G650 AirPlus Xtreme G

## AWKWARD PCMCIA CARD

PCMCIA cards like D-Link's AirPlus Xtreme G wireless network adapter are far from sexy—unless the prospect of doubling your wireless-networking throughput excites you. This card doesn't ordinarily work with a Mac, but with the help of OrangeWare's Wireless Driver for Mac (see above) it works fine. We're not thrilled with the way this card protrudes from the PowerBook—the inch-long slab sticking out of our

PC-card slot reminds us why we love Apple's gracefully inclusive designs such as its internal AirPort cards. But this is about speed, not style, and D-Link's card fit right in with our double-speed wireless network—as we expect any of the supported cards listed on OrangeWare's Web site would. Another reason to consider this AirPort alternative: It streets for half the price of an AirPort card.—*Niko Coucouvanis*



If you supply the driver and a compatible router, this card can double your wireless speed.



**COMPANY:** D-Link  
**CONTACT:** 714-998-9003,  
[www.dlink.com](http://www.dlink.com)  
**PRICE:** \$65, \$45 (street)

**REQUIREMENTS:** PowerBook with  
PC card slot, OrangeWare's Wireless  
Driver for Mac

**GOOD NEWS:** Cheaper and faster than AirPort Express.  
**BAD NEWS:** Third-party driver required.

MacAddict RATED  
SOLID



PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK MADEO



**Quick:** What looks like a striped gastropod mollusk but tracks accurately? The Microsoft Optical Mouse by Stark.

## Optical Mouse by Stark

### STYLIN' OPTICAL MOUSE

Cynical and jaded though we are, we admit that this designer mouse is a stylish and artistic bit of extruded plastic, and that the illuminated stripe down the middle lends it a reassuring glow. Designed by interior and industrial design guru Philippe S+ARCK (that's art-speak for *Stark*), and available in the enigmatically named colors mood ring, crimson fire, and cobalt basin, this mouse has a solid, even feel and tracks well on both solid and mottled backgrounds.

We appreciate the two buttons and clickable scroll wheel, but the mouse isn't governed by Microsoft's IntelliPoint driver, so you can't customize those buttons like you can with most third-party mice. OS X's built-in driver lets you set tracking, scrolling, and double-click speeds, and that's about it.

We prefer full functionality to froufrou good looks, but if you want a basic, functional mouse that looks nice, this is a good choice.—*John Poulthney*

**COMPANY:** Microsoft  
**CONTACT:** 800-426-9400, [www.microsoft.com/mac](http://www.microsoft.com/mac)  
**PRICE:** \$34.95  
**REQUIREMENTS:** USB-equipped Mac, Mac OS 10.1 or later

**GOOD NEWS:** Designer looks.

**BAD NEWS:** Nothing out of the ordinary, functionwise.

**MacAddict RATED**  
SOLID

## ArtMatic Voyager

### LUSCIOUS 3D-TERRAIN GENERATOR

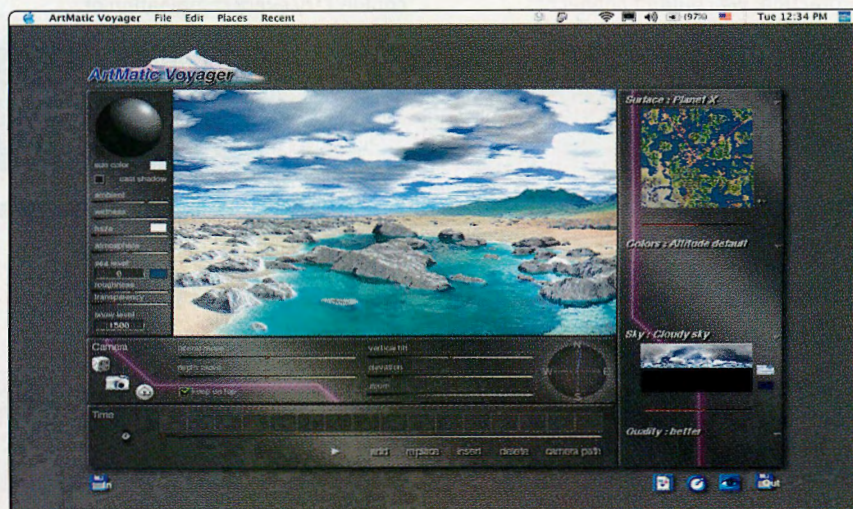
ArtMatic Voyager is the newest terrain generator floating around the Mac universe. Though developer Eric Wenger created both Artmatic Pro (see *Reviews*, May/02, p57) and the former terraforming king, Bryce, ArtMatic Voyager is comparatively limited. That said, ArtMatic generates the most luscious 3D terrains of any current terraformer—as long as you don't need trees.

Voyager consists of a trip in a virtual spaceship to three worlds. And when we say *worlds*, we mean it—there's 30,000 by 30,000 miles of terrain for each virtual planet. If you factor the app's price per acre, this is some of the most inexpensive real estate in the universe. Haze, surface wetness (the amount that a surface reflects the sun and adjacent geographic features), sun position, and sky conditions are all yours to modify—just click a button to fill the screen with a detailed rendering of the current camera view. It's easy to move the virtual camera, and then capture keyframes for the camera position and

orientation to instantly produce a fly-through animation. The rendering quality is good, and while the renderer isn't the fastest we've ever seen, it's certainly not the slowest.

Perhaps the most frustrating aspect of Voyager is that you're limited to experimenting with the three worlds included with the program. But while Voyager lacks the extensive texturing and 3D-object creation options that Bryce boasted, it is an amazing rendering module for extending ArtMatic Pro's output potential and is a no-brainer acquisition for existing ArtMatic Pro artists. On the downside, you can't bring in your own 3D objects as you could in Bryce, and if you want vegetation, well, go to a produce store, because Voyager's planets are devoid of organic lifeforms.

While Voyager is not going to make you give up dedicated 3D apps such as Cinema 4D, Maya, or even your well-worn copy of Bryce, it's easy, fun, and less of a hassle than making your own world from scratch.—*David Biedny*



The ArtMatic Voyager interface consists of a single screen of controls that makes it easy to change the look of a scene, camera position, and generate keyframed animation.

**COMPANY:** UI Software  
**CONTACT:** 650-364-0556, [www.uisoftware.com](http://www.uisoftware.com)  
**PRICE:** \$129, \$299 (bundled with ArtMatic Pro)

**REQUIREMENTS:** Power Mac (400MHz recommended), 128MB RAM, Mac OS 9 or later

**GOOD NEWS:** Easy-to-use interface. Flying-camera animation. Smooth, organic rendering quality.

**BAD NEWS:** Can't import 3D objects. Needs ArtMatic Pro for serious customization of planets. One-trick pony.

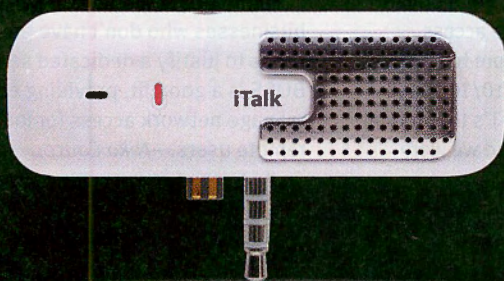
**MacAddict RATED**  
SOLID



# You listen to your iPod every day, Now your iPod can listen to you.

The creators of iTrip now introduce the **Griffin iTalk** iPod Voice Recorder. Plug iTalk into your iPod and record thoughts, ideas or meetings with its high quality built-in microphone.

Play back your voice memos or music through iTalk's built-in speaker. You can even connect a separate mic or your headphones into iTalk. So talk all you want, iPod will listen.



## iTalk

\$39<sup>99</sup>

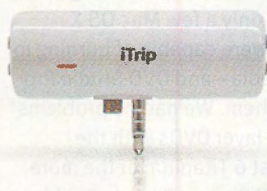
### Voice Recorder for iPod

- Turns iPod into a full function voice recorder
- Internal microphone and laptop quality speaker
- Connect external microphone or headphones
- Automatic Level Control for perfect recordings

## iTrip

\$35

### FM Transmitter for iPod



- Play your iPod's music wirelessly in your car or through your stereo at home
- Uses any empty FM station from 87.7 to 107.9 - switchable from the iPod itself
- iPod powered & earth friendly - no batteries needed or wasted ever
- Fits beautifully to top of iPod - no messy cables to get in the way



## iMic

\$39<sup>99</sup>

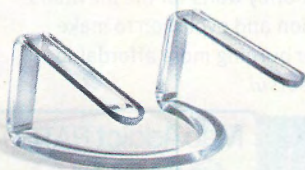
### USB External Sound Card

- Adds superior quality audio recording & playback to any Mac via USB
- Includes everything needed to record albums and tapes to make MP3s & CDs
- Works great with GarageBand & iMovie

## iCurve

\$39<sup>99</sup>

### PowerBook & iBook Stand



- Raises notebook screen to eye level - no more sore neck from looking down
- Creates room on the desktop for your favorite USB keyboard and mouse - wireless versions work great
- Keeps your notebook running cool (and loud fans off) with 360° airflow

Another great idea from **Griffin**

learn more at [www.griffintechology.com](http://www.griffintechology.com)



# BOSS

## NICHE BROADBAND OFFICE STORAGE SERVER

Setting up a home network can be as easy as stringing an Ethernet cable between a couple of Macs, but setting up a *useful* network—including a DHCP router for enabling network access for both Macs and PCs; NAT (network address translation) service and a firewall to regulate that access; and a file server for platform-independent file-sharing and -storage—can get tricky. Iogear's BOSS is essentially a network in a box, complete with a switching hub, router, integrated firewall with VPN and FTP capabilities, and a 120GB onboard hard drive for network storage.

Setting up a BOSS-based network is a snap: Plug your broadband modem into the WAN port, plug a Mac—or four—into

the LAN ports, and fire up the online configuration tool in Internet Explorer 5.2 (sorry, Safari doesn't work). While we're complaining, the tool is a bit buggy, occasionally stalling out and spouting obscure Javascript errors. Navigating and deciphering the configurator was the toughest part: It's packed with options such as user- and group-management for local-network use, and NAT/DHCP service for Internet sharing. Plus, it offers a firewall, and FTP and VPN (virtual private network) services for remote access.

The BOSS's fast 7,200-rpm hard drive is essentially wasted on a 10/100Base-T network device—100Base-T's theoretical top speed is 12.5 MBps, and we were



Iogear's BOSS rolls an entire network into one box.

glad to hit (almost) half that in our real-world testing. The BOSS has no FireWire or USB 2.0 port for direct access, so it's not quite the fast hard drive with an integrated router you might have expected.

For its target audience—small businesses who don't have the needs or funds to justify a dedicated server—the BOSS is a good fit, providing easy-to-manage network access for local and remote users.—*Niko Coucouvanis*



**COMPANY:** Iogear

**CONTACT:** 949-250-1260 or  
888-999-283, [www.iogear.com](http://www.iogear.com)

**PRICE:** \$399.95

**REQUIREMENTS:** Mac OS 10.2  
or later, Internet Explorer 5.2 or later,  
Ethernet network

**GOOD NEWS:** Simple to set up. Simple to use.

**BAD NEWS:** Fast hard drive wasted on slow Ethernet interface.  
Configuration software sometimes sketchy.

**MacAddict RATED**



**SOLID**



## d2 DVD±RW Double Layer

### ROCKIN' DUAL-LAYER DVD BURNER

If you burn as many DVDs as we do, you're sick of waiting for consumer drives capable of burning dual-layer discs, which can hold twice as much data as regular DVD discs—enough to back up (legally) your commercial copies of

**This unassuming aluminum box is your ticket to 8.5GB of dual-layer DVD power.**

*Howard the Duck* and *Myra Breckenridge* on one disc.

LaCie's d2 DVD±RW Double Layer drive is the cure. The sexy, metallic d2 Double Layer is sleek, quiet, and can cram almost twice the data onto a DVD than a single-layer burner can. Just think: 8.5GB of data per disc—that's 4 hours of video or about 2,250 iTunes songs.

Dual-layer burning, however, is slow at 2.4X. The NEC ND2510A burner tucked inside the d2 will, however, also burn single-layer DVDs at 8X—but that's no faster than LaCie's other optical drives,

drives from its competitors, or a new G5 Power Mac's SuperDrive. The reason to spend your hard-earned cash on this device isn't speed, it's per-disc capacity.

Though backing up boatloads of data and nonencrypted movies to dual-layer DVD presented no setup challenge, at press time only a few Mac OS X applications were capable of burning to dual-layer media—and DVD Studio.Pro isn't among them. We had no problems burning dual-layer DVDs with the included Toast 6 Titanium or the more affordable NTI Dragon Burn 4. Dual-layer media is still a rarity, but a Verbatim spokesperson told us that it will be more widely available soon and should cost around \$10 per disc.

If you're hot to get on the dual-layer train, this is the best (and, currently, *the only*) ticket in town. But the smarter money waits for the inevitable competition and evolution to make dual-layer burning more affordable.

—*Noah Tsutsui*



**COMPANY:** LaCie

**CONTACT:** 503-844-4500,  
[www.lacie.com](http://www.lacie.com)

**PRICE:** \$239

**REQUIREMENTS:** FireWire-equipped  
500MHz G4, Mac OS 9.1 or 10.1.2 later  
(10.2.3 for Dual Layer burning), 128MB  
RAM

**GOOD NEWS:** Dual Layer means 8.5GB per disc—just like Hollywood.

**BAD NEWS:** No faster than last-generation single-layer d2 DVD burner.

**MacAddict RATED**



**GREAT**



# WHERE WERE YOU DURING THE ROMAN MISSILE CRISIS?

**LIFE STOOD STILL FOR 13 MINUTES.** History changes in an instant. Never more so than in *Rise of Nations*.

A new real-time strategy game from Brian Reynolds, lead designer of *Civilization II*. Experience the depth of turn-based strategy games at an RTS pace through 6,000 years of history and 18 ancient nations. It's the most intense RTS of its kind. Think fast. Fight faster. Defend, defeat, bargain, befriend, plot and plunder. Do it all under the gun with zero margin for error. Nothing is historically impossible, and only the quick and the brazen survive.



Blood and Gore  
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# theHotList

THE BEST OF THE BEST FROM RECENT REVIEWS

**SHOPPING?**  
HERE'S WHAT WE  
RECOMMEND

## NEW THIS MONTH



### Aspyr Call of Duty

Contributing editor Helmut Kobler call this shooter "the best re-creation of WWII we've seen yet."

#### SPORTING GOODS

Item	Price	Review
Golf Shoes	\$75.00	Stable yet comfortable, these shoes are guaranteed to keep your ankles off your toes—and your feet on the green in style (and in the bag).
Football Helmet	\$125.00	Instead of padding, this helmet includes a shock absorber—perfect for protecting your brain and your pride.
Concussion Headband	\$99.99	Warning: when the concussion strikes, the headband will help you stay on the field. It's not a cure, but it's a help.
Concussion Headband	\$79.99	This rugged headband is a great protection against concussions. It's not a cure, but it's a help.

### WoodWing Software Smart Styles CS

If you use Adobe InDesign, publishing pro John Cruise advises that you "make Smart Styles your new assistant."



### Discreet Combustion 3

Videographer Andrew Tokuda describes Combustion 3 as "powerful," "convenient," and "awesome."

### Canon i860

MacAddict Reviews Editor Niko Coucouvanis calls the i860 "affordable, quick, and easy to use."



## SOFTWARE

### AUDIO

Ableton Live 3.0.2	\$399.00	May/04, p58	New effects, clip-level automation—all in a real-time sequencer.
Native Instruments Absynth 2	\$299.00	Apr/04, p42	This software synth can create audio magic like no other.
Native Instruments Reaktor 4	\$559.00	Jun/04, p56	If you can imagine a sound, you can create it with this synth.

### GAMES

Aspyr Call of Duty	\$49.99	Sep/04, p52	This shooter has tons of action, detailed locales, and fun.
Aspyr The Sims Makin' Magic	\$29.99	Jun/04, p51	The familiar Sims series delves into black—and white—magic.
MacSoft Halo: Combat Evolved	\$49.99	Mar/04, p38	It's as awesome as your Xbox buddies say it is.
MacSoft Neverwinter Nights	\$49.99	Jan/04, p54	Flaunt your Dungeons & Dragons skills in the best RPG ever.
MacSoft Unreal Tournament 2004	\$39.95	Jun/04, p48	The best first-person shooter adds new vehicles and weapons.

### GRAPHICS & LAYOUT

@Last Software SketchUp	\$475.00	Aug/04, p54	Even professional architects will value this 3D sketching tool.
Adobe InDesign CS	\$699.00	Feb/04, p46	More features and easier navigation make layout a snap.
Adobe Photoshop CS	\$649.00	Feb/04, p44	Just when you thought Photoshop couldn't get better, it did.
Macromedia Dreamweaver MX 2004	\$399.00	Jan/04, p48	Our favorite Web-design tool adds improved CSS support.
Macromedia Flash MX 2004 Professional	\$699.00	Jan/04, p48	Don't know how to write code? Flash MX will do it for you.
Macromedia FreeHand MX	\$399.00	Jun/03, p49	In the race with Adobe Illustrator, FreeHand pulls ahead.
WoodWing Software Smart Styles CS	\$149.00	Sep/04, p50	Save and apply InDesign styles for objects, tables, and text.

### PRODUCTIVITY & UTILITIES

FileMaker Pro 7	\$299.00	Jul/04, p46	A complete rewrite vaults this database into the big leagues.
Microsoft Office 2004	\$399.00	Aug/04, p42	Enhancements to every app add up to a worthy upgrade.
You Software You Control	\$49.95	Apr/04, p45	This menu utility increases your control over your Mac.

### VIDEO & ANIMATION

Adobe After Effects 6.5	\$699.00	Sep/04, p46	This upgrade is strong enough to be called version 7.
Apple Final Cut Express 2.0.2	\$299.00	May/04, p48	Unless you need to go Pro, Express will save you \$700.
Apple Final Cut Pro HD	\$999.00	Sep/03, p44	This kick-ass video editor now includes four new apps.
Discreet Combustion 3	\$995.00	Sep/04, p47	If you're serious about video compositing, get this software.

## HARDWARE

### ACCESSORIES

Microsoft Wireless IntelliMouse Explorer	\$64.95	Jan/04, p57	Our favorite desktop mouse adds horizontal scrolling.
RadTech BT-5000 Mobile Mouse	\$54.95	Aug/04, p58	Here's the perfect mouse for Bluetooth-equipped travelers.

### AUDIO & VIDEO

ADS Technologies Pyro DV Drive	\$699.00	Jan/04, p55	Record DV video directly to this mobile encoder and drive.
Canon Optura XI	\$1,499.00	Aug/04, p38	High-end features distinguish this mid-priced camcorder.
Elgato EyeTV 200	\$349.00	Jul/04, p53	This digital video recorder will change the way you watch TV.
Logitech Z-680	\$399.95	Jul/04, p49	There's only one word to describe these speakers: awesome.
MCE Technologies QuickStreamDV	\$729.00	Aug/04, p57	This rugged DV-encoding drive includes a hot-shoe mount.
Sony DCR-HC20	\$499.99	Aug/04, p36	This compact, inexpensive camcorder has great image quality.
Sony DCR-VX2100	\$2,999.99	Aug/04, p39	Want to move up to the big leagues? Here's your camcorder.

### DIGITAL CAMERAS

Canon EOS Digital Rebel	\$999.00	Mar/04, p48	Finally, an affordable pro-quality digital SLR camera.
Nikon Coolpix 5400	\$699.95	Dec/03, p22	This prosumer camera handles well and shoots even better.
Nikon D70 Digital SLR	\$1,299.00	Jul/04, p50	It's as close to perfect as any digital SLR camera we've seen.

### PRINTERS

Canon i560	\$89.99	Sep/04, p28	Ninety bucks can buy an exceptionally capable photo printer.
Canon i860	\$149.99	Sep/04, p29	This printer's Photo Black cartridge makes color photos pop.
Canon i900D	\$239.99	Sep/04, p31	Fast, gorgeous prints and color-LCD editing—good stuff.

### STORAGE

LaCie Big Disk Extreme 500GB	\$499.00	Aug/04, p55	Cutting-edge technology provides cutting-edge performance.
OWC Mercury Pro DVD-/RW	\$179.95	Aug/04, p60	The speedy drive includes everything you need to start burning.
WiebeTech G5Jam	\$1,999.95	Aug/04, p59	This internal four-drive RAID makes a Power Mac G5 scream.
WiebeTech MicroGB800	\$429.95	May/04, p61	At 7,200 rpm, this 60GB beauty is one snappy portable drive.



Nothing can stop him.  
Except...

## Intego Desktop Internet Security and Privacy Software for Mac OS X

The Internet lets you reach out to the world, expand your knowledge and broaden your horizons. But hackers and vandals stalk your Mac, offensive content abounds on web sites, and viruses threaten your files.

Intego provides the widest range of software to protect you and your Mac from the dangers of the Internet. Intego's multilingual software repeatedly receives awards from Mac magazines, and protects more than one million users in over 60 countries.

As the dangers of the Internet grow, Intego is hard at work, developing new software to protect you and your Mac from the latest threats to your security and privacy. Get the best protection for your Mac and for your world.



Panther and Jaguar compatible

See us at:

[www.intego.com](http://www.intego.com)



we protect your world.

Intego • 500 North Capital of Texas Hwy, Suite 8-150 - Austin, TX 78746 • Tel (512) 637-0700 • [sales@intego.com](mailto:sales@intego.com)

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### Intego NetBarrier X3

The first Internet security solution for Mac, including firewall, antivandal, filter, privacy and monitoring features.



### Intego VirusBarrier X

The ultimate antivirus solution for your Macintosh. Eliminates all known viruses.



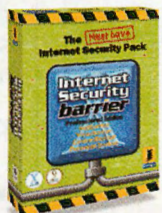
### Intego ContentBarrier X

Protects your family from the dangers of the Internet so your children can surf in peace.



### Intego Personal Backup X3

Provides a full range of backup, restoration, synchronization, and cloning functions.



### Intego Internet Security Barrier X

The must-have Internet security and privacy suite for total protection for your Mac.



### Intego ChatBarrier X3

Encrypts iChat instant messaging sessions with unbreakable, military-grade encryption.

Single-user, multi-user, and site-license versions available. Please contact our sales office.

Products available from:

Apple Store

MacMall

NAVARRE CORPORATION

Fry's ELECTRONICS

MUSIC WORLD

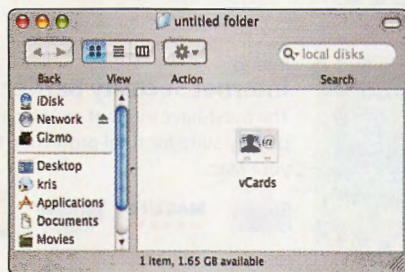


# ask us

## ENTOURAGE MIGRATION

**I want to use Microsoft Entourage instead of Apple Mail. There's got to be a way to import my contacts, right?**

Absolutely. Mail uses contacts stored in Address Book. To migrate them, first create a new folder on your desktop. Then open Address Book, click any name in the Name column, press Command-A to select all, and drag the highlighted list into the new folder. This creates a single file called vCards, which contains all of your contacts. Now open Entourage, click its Address Book button, and drag the vCards file into the resulting panel to import everything.

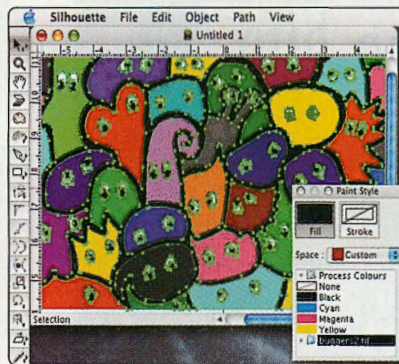


This little file contains every crumb of info from our 200-odd contacts in Address Book.

## GET VECTORIZED IN X

**I used to use Adobe Streamline to convert bitmapped images to vector art, but since Streamline hasn't been updated for Mac OS X, what else is there?**

While you don't have to abandon Streamline (\$129, [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com))—it works in Classic mode—FreeSoft S.A.'s Silhouette (\$299 for Adobe Illustrator 8, 9, 10, and CS plug-in; or \$359 for stand-alone; [www.silhouetteonline.com](http://www.silhouetteonline.com)) runs natively in OS X. Like Streamline, Silhouette converts color and black-and-white bitmap images into vector files, allowing you to smooth out curves and gussy up your art. Download a 15-day trial from Free Soft's Web site.



Can't draw perfect curves or even lines? Silhouette lets you vectorize your bitmaps for further editing.

## RESCUE ME—OR NOT

**I recently went dumpster-diving on my Mac OS 9 machine and found a Rescued Items folder in the Trash. What is this?**

Mac OS 9 creates this folder whenever your Mac reboots with items in its Temporary Folder, an invisible folder

that sits at the root of your hard drive. During normal use, an application may store temporary files in this folder, which deletes it when you quit the app. However, if your Mac crashes or if an app doesn't automatically delete its temporary items, then the Rescued Items folder appears in your Trash on the next boot. Very rarely is there anything in this folder worth rescuing.

## SEA CLASSIC

**Every time I double-click a file with the .sea extension, Classic launches. How can I get these files to open natively in Mac OS X?**

Those are Self Extracting Archive files created by older versions of Stuffit Deluxe (\$79.99, [www.aladdinsys.com](http://www.aladdinsys.com)). They're basically Stuffit files encased in a Mac OS 9 application, allowing you to unstuff stuff without Stuffit. They're pretty much obsolete these days, but never fear. To unstuff a SEA file in OS X, just drag it onto your OS X Stuffit Expander icon.



You can open this OS 9 remnant in Mac OS X—just don't double-click it.

## STOP MUSIC DUPLICATION

**Is there a way to store iTunes songs on an external hard drive, and not have iTunes copy songs to my internal drive when I add them to the library?**

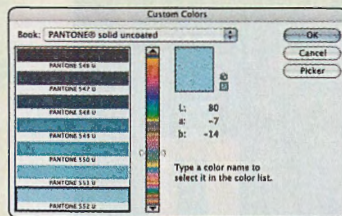
The RIAA would be pleased about your stance on excessive music copying—seriously, though, the iTunes' preferences dialog lets you set whether iTunes will copy a file into your iTunes Music folder. By default, iTunes automatically does this whenever you add songs to its Library.

# quick answers

## PANTONE PICKER

**How do I find a Pantone version of an RGB or CMYK color in Photoshop?**

Use the eyedropper tool to sample the color, open Color Picker, and click Custom. Then select Pantone swatch sets from the Book pop-up to view matches.



Use Color Picker's Custom button to get Pantone matches.

## BAD RAM?

**I just installed more memory into my new G5, and now it keeps crashing. Could bad RAM be the cause?**

There's only one way to find out: Remove your added RAM and see if the problems go away. Do note that Apple recommends installing RAM in matched pairs in G5s, though we haven't had any problems with our unmatched pair.

## G'BYE, DOCK

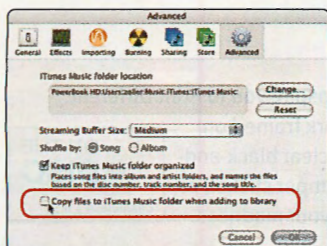
**How can I get rid of my Dock?**

Download dirtymouse's KnockoutDock (free, <http://fixa.troubledmac.com>). It'll make the Dock disappear.





To change this habit, select iTunes > Preferences > Advanced, then uncheck the Copy Files To iTunes Music Folder When Adding To Library box to link (but not copy) music files to the library every time you add songs, no matter where they're stored.



**Uncheck this box to stop duplicate music files from gobbling up drive space.**

## BANISH BLUR

**Why do my photos look blurry in iPhoto 4 whenever I view an image in Edit mode? Is there a way to sharpen things?**

We thought we had a serious case of beer goggles at first, but this is a problem many iPhoto users share. This softness is caused by iPhoto's antialiasing, which kicks in to smooth out pixelation whenever you view an image at less than 100 percent, and sometimes causes blurring. Until Apple fixes this issue, you can temporarily sharpen an image without actually changing the file. In Edit mode, click either the Brightness or the Contrast slider once—but don't move it. Your image should snap into focus. If your photo is

large, the good ol' spinning beach

**Strange as it may seem, clicking on this slider can sharpen an image.**



## TERMINAL DRIVES

**Can you use the Terminal to access external drives?**

You can access other drives and even CDs and DVDs. In the Terminal, type **cd /Volumes**, press Return, type **ls**, and press Return again to view all drives at the root of your startup disk. Then use the **cd** (change directory) command to access one.

## PREVIEW, PLEASE

**How do I make my Mac display PDFs in Preview instead of Adobe Reader?**

# UNIX UNIVERSITY

## COED DRIVE: MAC AND WIN

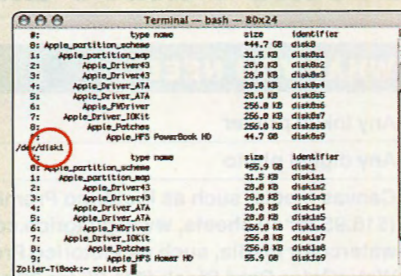
**Can I format a FireWire drive for use on both my Mac and my work peecce?**

Yes, but Apple doesn't recommend it. Note that you won't be able to boot from the Mac partition, your drive will be invisible to pre-OS X Macs, and the Windows partition shouldn't exceed 32GB. Warning: This procedure will completely erase the drive, so copy its contents before proceeding.

Next, launch the Terminal, type **diskutil list**, and press Return to view a listing of all Mac-connected drives. Each listing is preceded by a **/dev/disk#** header. Your main internal drive is usually listed as **/dev/disk0**. Additional drives are listed sequentially as **/dev/disk1**, **/dev/disk2**, and so on, depending on how many internal and external drives you have. To locate the right disk number, look for your FireWire drive's name beside each **Apple\_HFS** listing.

Say that you want to divide a 60GB drive, listed as **/dev/disk1**, into a 20GB Windows partition called **WINPART** and a 40GB Mac partition called **MACPART**.

To do this, type **diskutil partitionDisk disk1 (space) 2 MBRFormat MS-DOS (space) WINPART 20G HFS+ (space) MACPART 40G**, and press Return. This command tells diskutil (a Unix utility) to partition disk1 into two parts; the first is a 20GB partition named **WINPART** that's formatted with the MS-DOS partition map called **MBRFormat**. The second part is a 40GB partition named **MACPART** that's formatted in the Mac OS Extended format. Apply your own variables to partition your drive.



**Make sure you select the correct drive.**

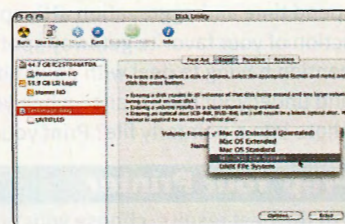
ball may provide entertainment until sharpening kicks in.

## DOS LIVES!

**I used to create MS-DOS formatted disk images in Mac OS X, but I can't in Panther—or can I?**

You can. Open Disk Utility (/Applications/Utilities) and select Images > New > Blank Image. In the resulting dialog, set the disk image size via the Size pop-up menu, select None from the Encryption pop-up,

and click Create. The image mounts and appears in Disk Utility's left column. Select the DMG file and click the Erase tab. In the resulting panel, select MS-DOS File System from the Volume Format pop-up and click Erase. Your volume is now MS-DOS formatted.



**Panther has a backdoor way of creating MS-DOS disk images.**

Seven years of handling tech support for Apple, Power Computing, and a Texas school district have given Buz Zoller Mac superpowers.

**Submit** technical questions or helpful tips directly via email ([askus@macaddict.com](mailto:askus@macaddict.com)) or c/o **MacAddict**, 150 North Hill Dr., Ste. 40, Brisbane, CA 94005.

Select a PDF file in the Finder and press Command-I. In the Get Info window, select Preview from the Open With pop-up menu and click Change All to affect all PDFs you open in the future.

## DOCK SHORTCUTS

**Do you have any lesser-known Dock shortcuts?**

Our two favorites: Bring an app front and center by Option-clicking its icon in the Dock, and display an app and its parent directory in the Finder by Command-clicking its Docked icon.



# Get Fine Art and Novelty Prints from Your Inkjet

by Kris Fong

**D**igital photos, your novel, "Dear John" letters—without your trusty inkjet, these treasures are nothing more than a bunch of 1s and 0s on your hard drive. While you may put your printer through its paces in your usual day-to-day routine, outfitting it with different paper (or *media*

in inkjet parlance) and inks can inspire you to Print Different. Whether you want to see your work framed on canvas, presented in stunningly clear black-and-white, or slapped on a T-shirt, bumper sticker, or *derriere*, we've got a method for your madness.



## Create Faux-Painterly Prints EASY

### WHAT YOU NEED

Any inkjet printer

Any digital photo

Canvas media, such as Pictorico Premium Canvas (\$16.95 for 10 sheets, [www.pictorico.com](http://www.pictorico.com)), or watercolor media, such as Pictorico Premium WaterColor Card Stock (\$11.95 for 20 sheets)

Any paint filter app, such as Synthetik Software Studio Artist (\$379, [www.synthetik.com](http://www.synthetik.com)), Adobe Photoshop CS (\$649, [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)), or Zonic Chameleon 1.0 (\$19.95, [www.zonic.co.uk](http://www.zonic.co.uk))

If you want to create painted artwork but can't muster more than a stick figure, convert a photo into a faux painting on canvas. We call this one Dandy Lion.



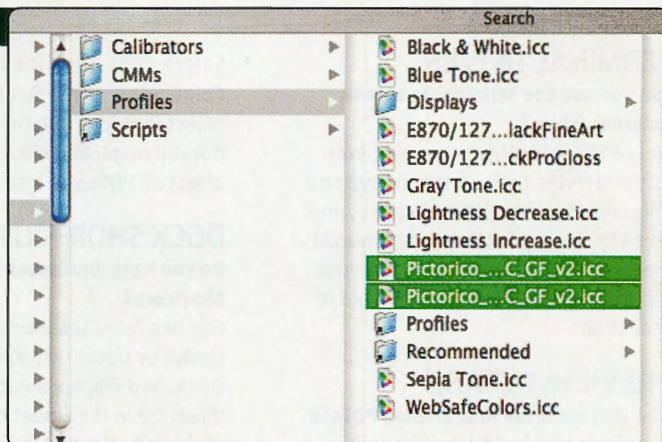
► Why spend time and aggravation attempting to paint a reproduction of your favorite getaway spot or noble dignitary—not to mention having to deal with paint on your clothes and carpet and under your fingernails—when you can easily turn a digital photo into a painterly file? Print your artwork on canvas

or watercolor inkjet media, and you'll have a work of art that's hardly any work at all. (We used an Epson Stylus Photo 1280, Chameleon, and Photoshop CS—just adjust our instructions so they apply to your own setup.)

### 1 Prep Your Printer

For the best results, choose your preferred media, then go to that manufacturer's Web site and see if it has a downloadable ICC (International Color Consortium) profile—a file that contains information used to translate one device's color data to another's color space (for instance, monitor to printer)—for your media and printer combo. If so, download the file. If not, skip to step 2. To install a profile, quit your graphics app (if it's open), then drag the profile file into ColorSync's Profiles folder (/Library/ColorSync/Profiles).

For our Epson 1280, we installed Pictorico's ICC profiles for its Canvas and WaterColor papers.





## 2 Pick Your Paint

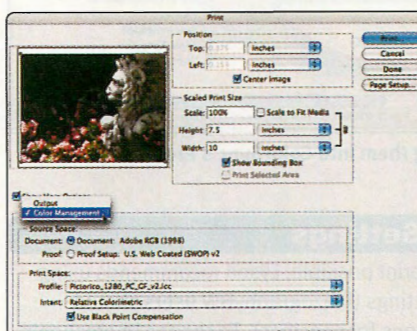
Open your photo in your graphics app and turn it into any paint style using the app's filters. For example, if you have canvas media, apply a goopy oil or rich acrylic painting filter. If you have watercolor media, turn your image data into vivid watercolors or pastels. If you want to style your art the easy way, use Zonic's Chameleon. Select one or more of its various effects—either from the top drop-down Effect menu or from the previews panel at the right—to alter your image. We chose Detailed Painting to give our image a Monet-esque look. (If you're using Chameleon, save your work and then reopen it in an image-editing app—you can't resize images in Chameleon.) Then resize the photo for the media at hand (in Photoshop, select Image > Image Size).



Chameleon's preview pane makes it easy to check out and apply filters to a photo.

## 3 Print Your Picture

In Photoshop, select File > Page Setup; in the resulting dialog, select your printer from the Format For pop-up menu. Of the three Orientation icons, click the one that matches your image's orientation, and click OK. Then select File > Print With Preview; in the resulting Print dialog, check the Show More Options box, select Color Management from the pop-up menu below it, select the ICC profile for your media type from the Profile pop-up, and click Print. In the resulting dialog, select Print Settings from the third pop-up menu (your printer driver's dialog may vary). In the next panel, select your media from the Media Type pop-up, select Advanced Settings, and select the best print resolution from the Print Quality dialog. Then click Print and wait for your painting to pop out of your printer.



To use an ICC profile, select Color Management in the Print With Preview dialog and then select your profile from the Profile pop-up menu.

## Make Monochrome Prints



► It may seem illogical, but most inkjet printers use color inks to produce black-and-white images, which can result in weird color casts and/or mediocre tonal gradations. If you're a hard-core black-and-white photographer, you can get pristine, museum-quality prints from your inkjet using monochrome inks of varying shades of gray to black. (We used an old Epson Stylus Photo 870.)



For museum-quality black and whites, you can't beat quad inks.

### WHAT YOU NEED

**Inkjet printer that supports monochrome inks (typically Epson or Canon)**

**QuadTone inks, such as Quad Black from Lyson (prices vary, [www.lyson.com](http://www.lyson.com)) or Piezography BW inks from Cone Editions Press from Inkjet Mall (prices vary, [www.inkjetmall.com](http://www.inkjetmall.com))**

**Cleaning cartridges, optional, from Lyson or Inkjet Mall**

**Supported photo media for your chosen ink**

**A digital photo**

**Adobe Photoshop (\$649, [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)) or comparable app**

## 1 Out with the Old

To ensure that remnants from your printer's old color inks don't mix with the monochrome ones, flush out the printhead. We used Lyson Cleaning Cartridges (about \$22 each for black and color). Pull out the old ink cartridges and install the cleaning ones. Then fire up Epson Printer Utility, click Head Cleaning, and follow the instructions to clean the printhead and print a confirmation page (don't forget to load a few sheets of plain paper)—your goal is to get a clean sheet with no ink. If you see some, repeat the cleaning process. Once the printhead's clean, pull out the cleaning cartridges, drop in the Quad inks, and let your printer perform its setup. Then click Nozzle Check in Printer Utility and print a test page. If all the grid lines in the resulting page are present, you're good to go.

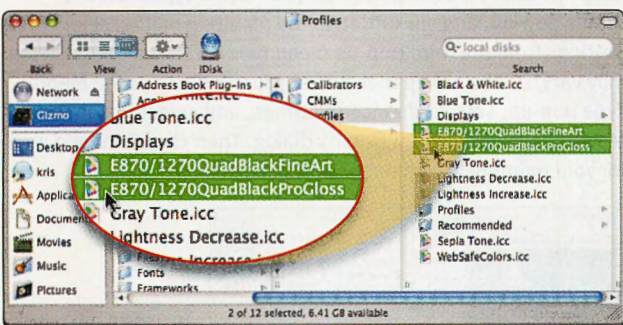


Before using Quad inks, flush out old color by installing cleaning cartridges first.



## 2 Profile Your Printer

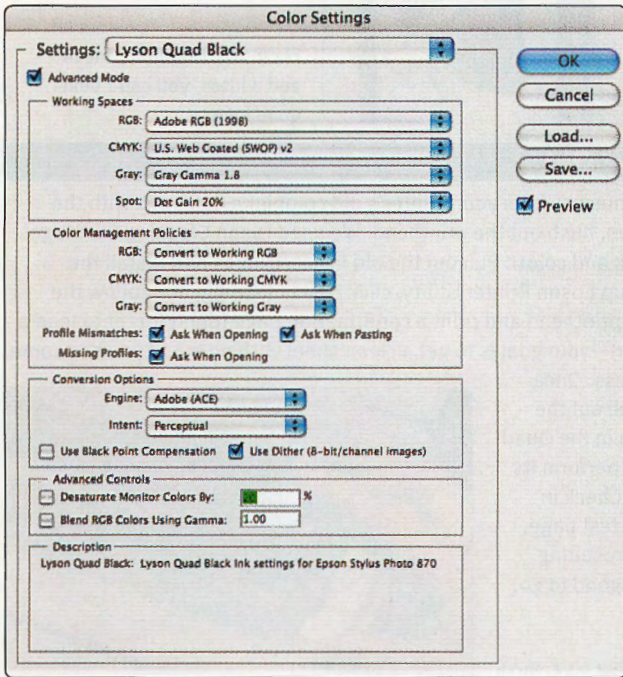
To ensure color accuracy, both Lyson and Cone have ICC (International Color Consortium) profiles available for different printer and media combinations. Download the corresponding ICC profiles for your combo from the appropriate Web site. To install the profiles, quit Photoshop (if it's open) and drag the profiles into ColorSync's Profiles folder at /Library/ColorSync/Profiles.



To use ICC profiles, drag them into ColorSync's Profiles folder.

## 3 Set Color Settings

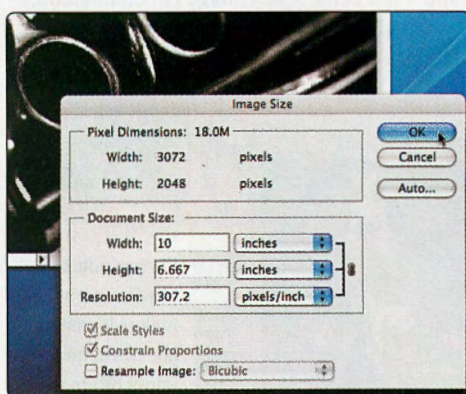
To get the best print possible, Lyson recommends using certain color settings (PiezographyBW users should consult Cone's instructions for specifics). To change Photoshop's color settings, launch the app and select Photoshop > Color Settings. In the resulting dialog, check the Advanced Mode box. Then select the settings as shown in the screen below. When finished, click Save; in the resulting dialog, name this preset and click Save. In the next dialog, type a description for the setting and click OK. Then click OK to close Color Settings.



Set Photoshop to use these color settings if you're using Lyson Quad Ink (your app's dialog may vary).

## 4 Prep the Pic

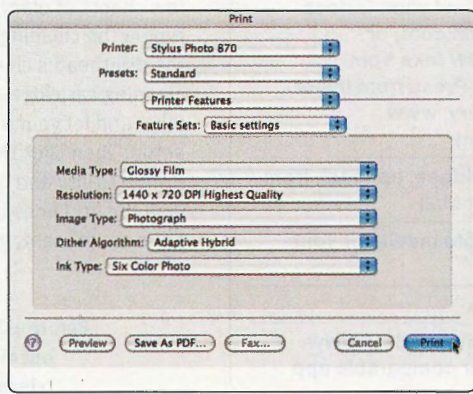
Open your photo in Photoshop. A Profile Mismatch dialog opens; select Convert Document's Colors To The Working Space and click OK. If your photo's not already black and white, make it so. Use our "How to Get Better Black and Whites" tutorial (Mar/04, p74) to make the best color-to-grayscale conversion, or simply turn your color image into grayscale in Photoshop (Image > Mode > Grayscale) and then back into RGB mode. Use Image > Adjustments > Levels or Image > Adjustments > Curves to perfect or alter your photo's exposure. Then resize the image for your media (Image > Image Size). Make sure your image has a resolution of 200 pixels per inch or higher for best photo quality.



When scaling down Width or Height values, uncheck the Resample Image box to maximize resolution.

## 5 Make the Print

Select File > Page Setup. In the resulting dialog, select your printer from the Format For pop-up menu, click the Orientation icon for your image, and click OK. Then select File > Print With Preview. In the resulting dialog, check the Show More Options box, select Color Management from the pop-up menu below it, and select Document in the Source Space section. Then select the ICC profile for your media from the Profile pop-up, select Perceptual from the Intent pop-up, uncheck the Use Black Point Compensation box, and click Print. In the resulting dialog, select Printer Features from the third pop-up menu, select your media from the Media Type pop-up, select your printer's highest resolution from the Resolution pop-up, and select your printer's color setting from the Ink Type pop-up. Go to the third pop-up again and select Color Management, then select No Color Management, and click Print to print (finally!).



Here are the settings we used for our Epson Photo 870 printer; your settings and dialog may vary.



# Wear or Adhere Your Art

EASY

► Once you max out all available wall space, take your images elsewhere. Whether you're a photographer, graphic artist,

or clip-art fan, you can create T-shirts, scarves, stickers, and even tattoos that bear your labor—compliments of your inkjet.

## WHAT YOU NEED

Any inkjet printer

Any digital image

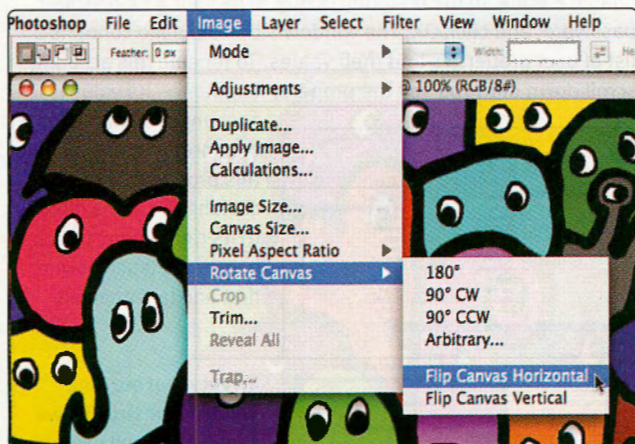
Any image-editing app

One of the following:

- **T-shirts**—transfer media, such as Papilio Inkjet Thermoweld Transfer Media (\$17.30 for 10 sheets, [www.papilio.com](http://www.papilio.com)) or Epson Iron-On Transfer Paper (\$13.50 for 10 sheets, [www.epson.com](http://www.epson.com))
- **Scarves or tapestries**—fabric media, such as Pictorico PolySilk Fabric (\$16.95 for 10 sheets, [www.pictorico.com](http://www.pictorico.com))
- **Stickers**—adhesive media, such as Papilio Clear Ultra Cling (\$11.25 for 10 sheets) or Epson Photo Quality Self Adhesive Sheets (\$11.70 for 10 sheets)
- **Magnets**—DecalPaper.com Magnetic Paper (\$10.99 for 10 sheets, [www.decalspaper.com](http://www.decalspaper.com))
- **Body art**—Papilio Temporary Tattoo Paper Kit (\$16.75 for 8 paper and adhesive sheets)

## 1 Prep Your Image

Once you choose your print media, download the media's ICC profile (if available) and install it as instructed in step 1 of "Create Faux-Painterly Pics." Then resize the image in your image editor for the media at hand. Depending on the media, you may need to create a mirror image (in Photoshop, select Image > Rotate Canvas > Flip Canvas Horizontal) if you're printing an iron-on transfer or tattoo that contains words (check your media's instructions first). If you don't want a background in your image, use your image editor to mask it out or delete it so you can end up with a subject against a transparent backdrop.



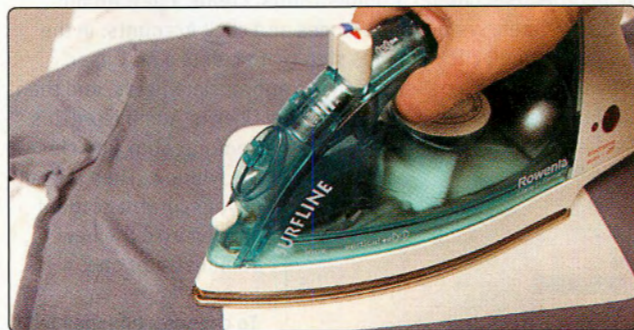
We created a mirror image of our graphic so that the words would read right on our T-shirt.



Why rush home to enjoy your artwork when you can take it to go in many forms?

## 2 Print and Press

How you set up your printer depends on your chosen media. Follow the instructions in step 3 of "Create Faux-Painterly Pics" until you get to Print Settings. If you're printing stickers, magnets, or iron-on transfers, or onto fabric media, set your printer's Media Type to Glossy Photo Paper (or the like) at the highest resolution. For tattoo papers, set Media Type to Plain Paper at a normal-quality resolution. To avoid costly spoilage, make a test print of your image on plain paper first. If all looks good, load the real media and click Print. Allow the print to dry fully (check your media's instructions for specifics); once it's dry, trim away any unprinted media if necessary (for transfers and tattoos). Then iron on, stick on, or otherwise apply your art.



When transferring art to a tee, set your iron to the max and put some hard muscle into your effort.

Senior Editor Kris Fong doesn't own a stitch of clothing that requires ironing. She thanks Rowenta for sending her this "iMac iron" years ago.



# Change Your User Name

**TRICKY**

by Kris Fong

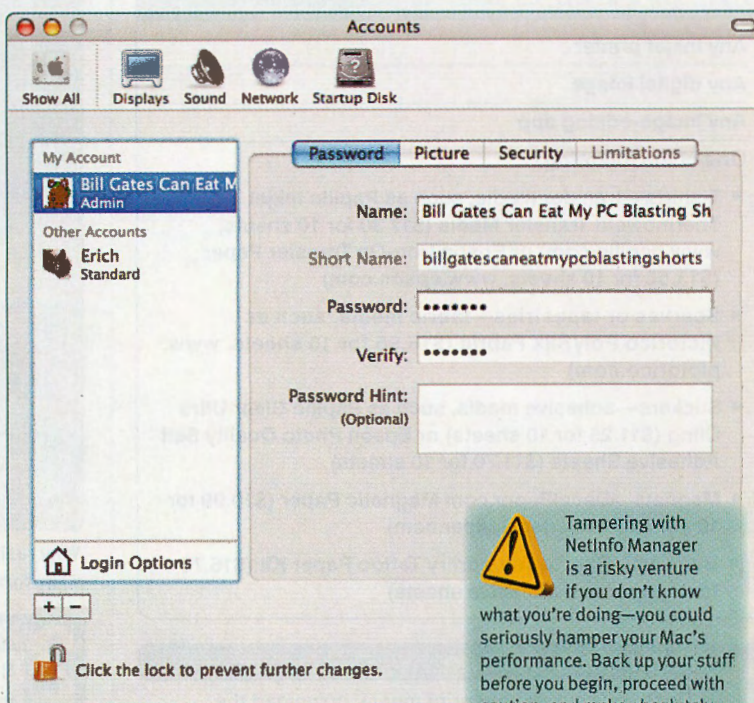
## WHAT YOU NEED

 Mac OS 10.2 or later (\$129, [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com))

Administrator status

A few weeks ago, you bought a brand-spankin'-new Mac and were so deliriously happy that you typed *Bill Gates Can Eat My PC Blasting Shorts* as your account name—and OS X dutifully filled in the Short Name field with *billgatescaneatmypcblastingshorts*. Weeks of exhaustive user name typings later, it dawns on you—how stupid was that? To right this wrong, you bring up the Accounts panel in System Preferences only to find that you can't change your short name—the one that shows up in password dialogs, your user folder name, and the Terminal prompt, among other places.

If you want to redub your account's identity, here's one way to give yourself a new name using a couple of OS X utilities—NetInfo Manager and the Terminal. We used Panther for this how-to; some System Preferences instruction vary in Jaguar, so just adapt our directions to your setup.



Tampering with NetInfo Manager is a risky venture if you don't know what you're doing—you could seriously hamper your Mac's performance. Back up your stuff before you begin, proceed with caution, and make absolutely sure that you aren't attempting to change the account that you're currently logged into.

**Whether you made a typo, entered the Witness Protection Program, or just came to your senses, you can change your Mac OS X user name.**

## 1 Switch Accounts

To change an account's user name, you need to be logged into another account as an administrator. If you have such an account (it's always a good idea), log out of the account whose name you want to change, log in as the other administrator, and skip to step 2. If you have only one account or all other users aren't administrators, create a new Admin account: Open System Preferences and click Accounts. In the resulting panel, click the plus sign (+) to create a new user. Type a name and a password in the appropriate fields, and then click the Security tab. Check the Allow User To Administer This

Computer box and close the window. Then log out of your current account and log in to the new administrator one.

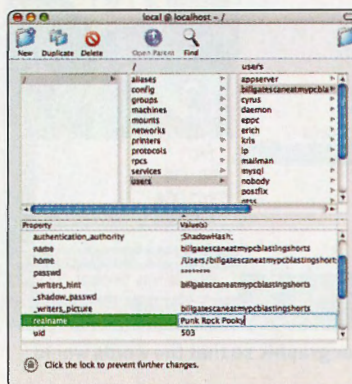
**To change a boneheaded mouthful of a name in a primary account (top), create a new administrative account (bottom).**



## 2 Net a New Name

Open NetInfo Manager (/Applications/Utilities) and in the resulting window, select Users from the upper-middle pane. Then select the user name you want to change from the upper-right pane. Click the lock at the bottom of the window to enable editing. In the resulting dialog, type your administrator password, and click OK. The window's bottom pane contains a list of user properties and their values. To rename this account, scroll down until you see the property Realname—its value is the

account's full name (not the short name)—rename this property by double-clicking the name directly to its right and typing in a new name (such as your first and last names).

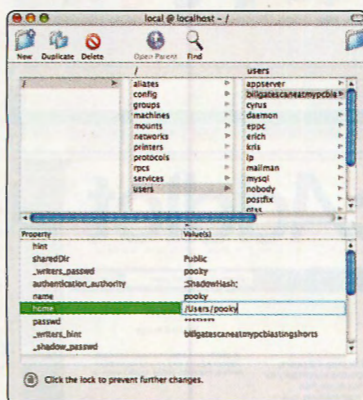


**To get rid of our long-winded monstrosity, we typed a new full name for our account next to the Realname property.**



## 3 Make It Short

Unix uses the short name to identify your account and files; stick with something short and sweet (such as your first name). To change the name, scroll through the bottom pane and in the Values column, change every instance of the unwanted name to a new short name without any caps or spaces. Be sure to change only the name itself—do not alter any

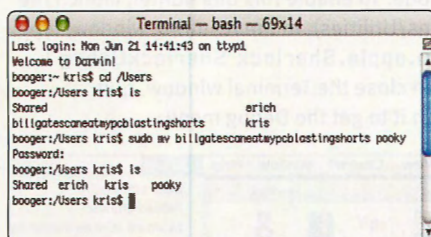


text that appears before the name, such as part of a path. When finished, press Command-S to save. In the resulting confirmation dialog, click Update This Copy.

Replace only the actual name in the Values column—replacing other text in this field will alter the Home folder path.

## 5 Rename the User Folder

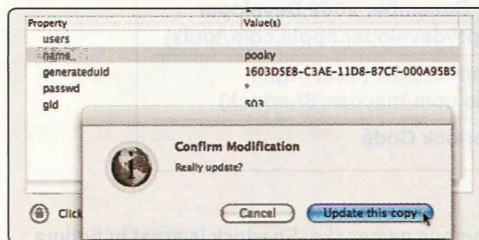
Your new user account name is now active, but you still need to rename your actual user (Home) folder (/Users/*user name*). To do this, open the Terminal (/Applications/Utilities), type `cd /Users`, and press Return to change directories to the User directory. Type `ls`, and press Return to display a list of user folders inside of it. You should see your old user folder. To change the name, type `sudo mv old-user name new-user name`, and press Return (we typed `sudo mv billgatescaneatmypc` (no space) `blastingshorts pooky`). Type your password at the prompt, and press Return again. Voila! Your name is changed (and you didn't even have to get hitched). Panther users: You're done. Log in to your new account, and you should have access to everything as usual. Jaguar users: Read on.



While it may seem odd, rename your old user folder by using the mv (move) command in the Terminal.

## 4 Alter the Group

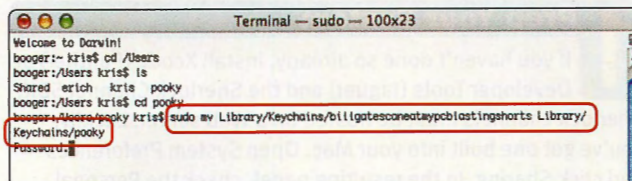
In the same pane where you selected Users, now select Groups. Panther users: In the pane to the right of the Groups pane, select your old user name, and in the bottom pane, change the Name value to your new short name. Jaguar users: If you're altering an administrator account, select Admin, click the Users disclosure triangle in the bottom pane, and change your old short name to your new short name. If not, skip to step 5. If you made changes, save them, click Update This Copy in the resulting dialog, and quit NetInfo Manager.



To ensure that our new name is recognized, we made one last name change, this time in the Groups pane.

## 6 Rename Your Keychain

Jaguar users, your old user name is still attached to your keychain, so change it in the Terminal. Type `cd new-user name`, and press Return to enter your new account. Then change the keychain file name by typing `sudo mv Library/Keychains/old-user name Library/` (no space) `Keychains/new-user name`, and press Return (we typed `sudo mv Library/Keychains/billgatescaneatmy` (no space) `pcblastingshorts Library/Keychains/pooky`). Now log in to your new account for business as usual.



To rename a keychain in Jaguar, use the move (mv) command in the Terminal.



Senior Editor...no, How-To Editor...no, MacAddict minion Kris Fong is currently undergoing an identity crisis—just because she can.

## A Safer Alternative

If Terminal commands and the thought of mucking around in Mac OS X's underbelly has you feeling faint, you can opt to create a new administrator account with your desired formal and short name instead. Once you do, move all of your personal files (email data, bookmarks, MP3s, fonts, photos, and whatnot) from your old account to your new one. The best way to avoid potential permissions problems is to

copy your files to a mounted drive or server, and then log into your new account and copy stuff back. Afterward, you can set your new account as the dominant one by clicking Login Options in the Accounts preferences. In the resulting panel, check the Automatically Log In As box and select the new account from the pop-up menu. Reboot, and you're good to go.



# Create a Sherlock Channel

TOUGH

by Johnathon Williams

## WHAT YOU NEED

Mac OS 10.2 or later (\$129, [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com))

Xcode Tools or December 2002 Developer Tools (free, <http://developer.apple.com/tools>)

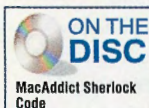
Sherlock 3 Channel SDK (free, <http://developer.apple.com/macosx/Sherlock>)

MacAddict Sherlock Code

Like its famous namesake, Sherlock is great at finding things. Rather than hunt and peck through multiple Web sites on your own unguided tour, Sherlock zeros in on your specific interests (everything from movie show times to eBay listings), scours the Web, and finds what you're looking for fast. It's a powerful and convenient search tool, but its channel selection can be somewhat limited. If only there was a way to get channels for your favorite sites.

Good news: You can, but it takes some work—from you.

With Apple's Sherlock Channel SDK, you can create channels for practically any Web site that houses a search page. While making a Sherlock channel is tricky, you don't need to be a legendary detective to figure it out.



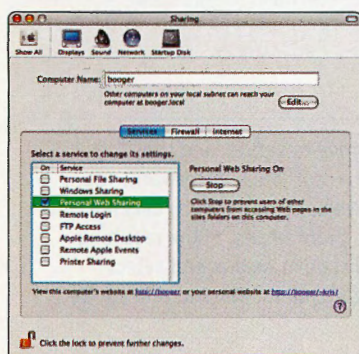
Sick of long hunting expeditions on Safari? Create your own Sherlock channel and you can snoop out searches in a snap.

We show you how to design and code a channel that searches our MacAddict.com site. Take what you learn and channel your favorite sites—it's elementary. (We're using Xcode in Panther, though the instruction is much the same in Jaguar.)

## 1 Prep Your System

If you haven't done so already, install Xcode (Panther) or Developer Tools (Jaguar) and the Sherlock Channel SDK. Sherlock channels must be hosted on a Web server. Luckily, you've got one built into your Mac. Open System Preferences and click Sharing. In the resulting panel, check the Personal Web Sharing box to turn on the server (it may take a moment to start up). Then subscribe to Apple's Developer Tools channels in Sherlock. Open your Web browser, type `sherlock://si.info.apple.com/sherlock3s/developerChannels.xml?action=subscribe` in the URL field, and press Return. Sherlock launches and asks

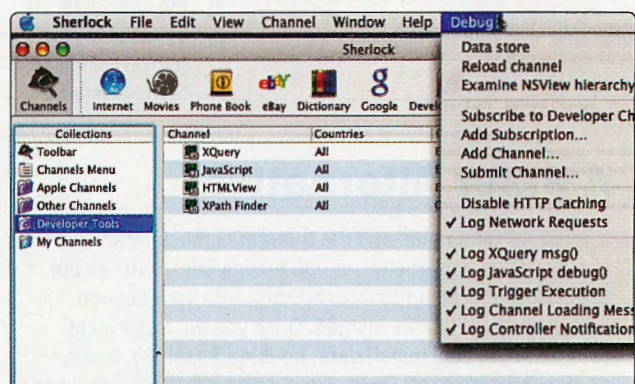
permission to install the channels. Click Proceed.



Apple's Sherlock relies on a Web server to turn on Personal Web Sharing to get started.

## 2 Get Debug

Unless you can write perfect code on the first try, you'll need some help from Sherlock when it comes time to debug your channel code. To enable this bug hunter, launch the Terminal (/Applications/Utilities). In the resulting window, type `defaults write com.apple.Sherlock SherlockDebug 1`, and press Return. Then close the Terminal window, quit Sherlock, and relaunch it to get the Debug menu.

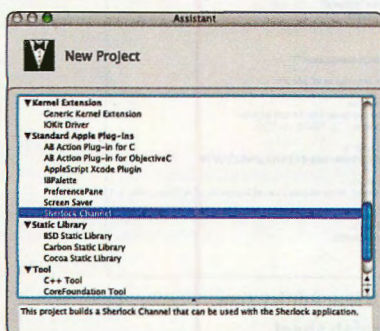


Bugs are inevitable. Luckily, Sherlock comes equipped with its very own can of Raid.



### 3 Start a New Project

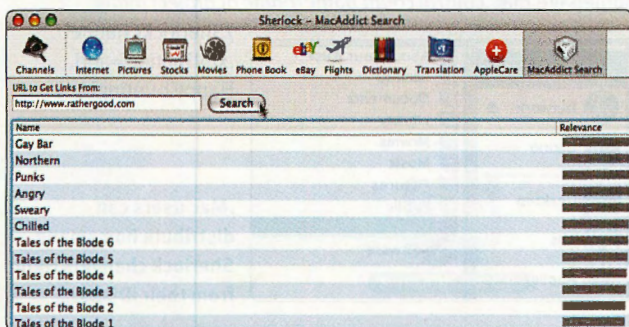
Time to break out the big guns. Launch Xcode (or Project Builder if you're using Jaguar); find either app in /Developer/Applications. Select File > New Project; in the resulting window, select Sherlock Channel from the Standard Apple Plug-Ins section. Click Next; in the resulting panel, type *MacAddictSearch* in the Project Name field. Then type *~/Sites/MacAddictChannel* in the Project Directory field (this saves the project in your user's Sites directory), and click Finish. In the resulting dialog, click Create. Xcode's project window opens: The left Groups & Files column lists items associated with your project, and the right panel lists the selected group's file components. Files ending with .nib are Interface Builder files—they contain all the graphics that make up your channel's faceplate.



Thankfully, you don't have to program from scratch; Xcode includes a Sherlock Channel template to get you started.

### 5 Run a Test

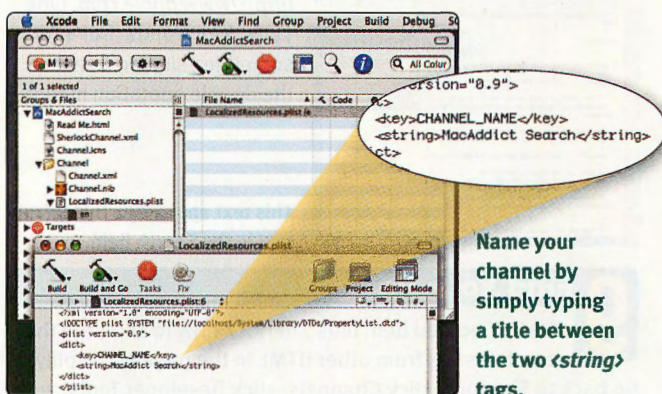
Alrighty, let's see how things are looking. Click the hammer icon in the project window to compile what you have so far. Then open your Web browser, type *sherlock://localhost/~user name/MacAddictChannel/SherlockChannel.xml?action=add* (where *user name* is your user name), and press Return. Sherlock opens and displays a dialog, asking where you want to store the channel. Select Toolbar from the pop-up menu and click Proceed to add the channel. So why bother loading the channel when all it has is a name and identifier, right? Wrong. The Sherlock template you loaded in step 3 provides a complete, working channel—it's just not yet specifically tailored to *MacAddict*. To see it in pseudo-action, click *MacAddict Search* in Sherlock, type any URL in the search box, and click Search—you'll get a list of links from that Web page.



Your new *MacAddict Search* channel functions, but you need to futz with some code to make it work right.

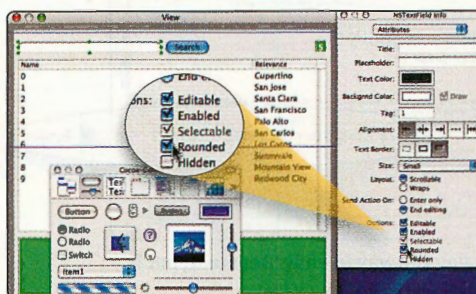
### 4 Name Your Channel

From the Groups & Files column, select *MacAddictSearch* to display its components in the right panel. Double-click *SherlockChannel.xml* to display the code. Locate the line that starts with *identifier*—alter it slightly by typing *identifier="com.MacAddictSearch"*, save the file, and close the window. Then click the *MacAddictSearch* disclosure triangle, click the resulting Channel disclosure triangle, click the subsequent *LocalizedResources.plist* disclosure triangle, and double-click the resulting *en* file. To name your channel, type *MacAddict Search* between the two *<string>* tags. Then save and close the file.



### 6 Do a Face-lift

Now tweak the interface. Go back to Xcode, click the NIB Files disclosure triangle, and then click the *Channel.nib* disclosure triangle. Double-click the resulting *en* file to open it in Interface Builder. The View window is where you do your design work. The Cocoa window contains various interface elements. Open the Info window by pressing Command-Shift-I; this window displays data about the currently selected item. In the View window, click the Search button. A list of its attributes appears in the Info window; next to Key Equiv, select Return from the drop-down menu—this allows you to start a search by pressing Return instead of having to click Search. In the View window, select the text above the Search field and delete it. To alter the shape of the search box, select it and, in the Info window, check the Rounded box to add curves. In the View window, double-click anywhere in the panel that lists cities—the Info window's title bar should display *SherlockNSTableView* Info. In the Info window, type 1 in the # Colms field to reduce the number of columns to one. Save your work and close Interface Builder.

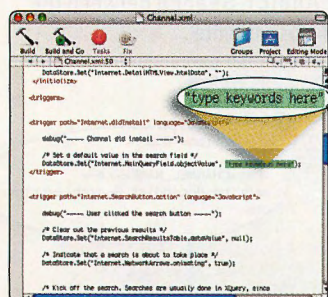


Don't be a square. Check the Rounded box to make the Search box more curvaceous.



## 7 Tweak the Code

Now starts the hard part: tampering with the code. Go back to Xcode and double-click Channel.xml (inside MacAddictSearch's Channel folder under Groups & Files). To make channels work, Sherlock organizes instructions inside XML (eXtensible Markup Language) tags. The `<initialize>` tag tells the channel what to do when opened. The `<trigger>` tags tell the channel what to do when a user performs an action, such as clicking the Search button. Find the first `<trigger>` tag—the one that sets the default value in the Search field (see screenshot below). Currently, the template inserts Apple's URL. However, you want

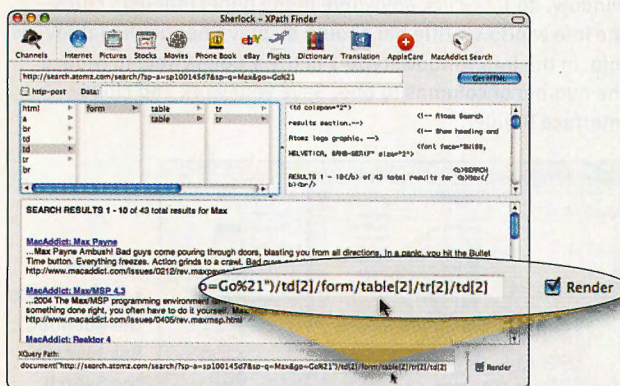


to use the Search field to enter keywords, so in place of `http://www.apple.com`, type **type keywords here** (or something similar) between the double quotation marks.

This text appears as the default text in the Search field.

## 9 Find Your Path

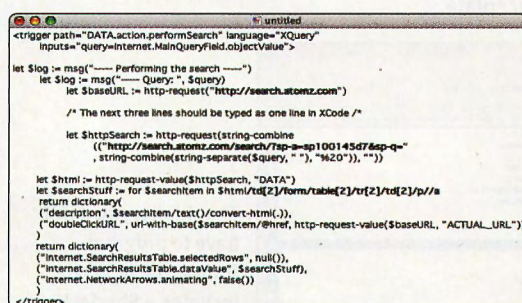
The last bolded item tells Sherlock how to separate the search results from other HTML in the page for display. Go back to Sherlock, click Channels, click Developer Tools, and double-click XPath Finder to open it. Check the Render box at the bottom of the window, type `http://search.atomz.com/search/?sp-a=sp100145d7&sp-q=Max&go=Go%21` (this starts a search for Max on MacAddict.com via Atomz) in the top field, and click Get HTML. A list of HTML tags appears in the upper-left column, while a block of search results (in HTML code) appears in the upper-right pane. Separate the search results from the HTML gibberish by clicking through the HTML tags until the upper-right pane shows only the results (in HTML code), following this tag hierarchy: Click the second `td` tag in the left column, `form` in the second column, the second `table` tag in the third column, the second `tr` tag in the fourth column, and the second `td` tag in the fifth column. Sherlock spells out the path as `/td[2]/form/table[2]/tr[2]/td[2]`. Because each search result is enclosed in its own `<p>` tag, we added a single `p` to the path and ended it with `//a` to restrict the results to links.



XPath won't show you the way to enlightenment, but it will lead you through all that pesky HTML.

## 8 Code the Search

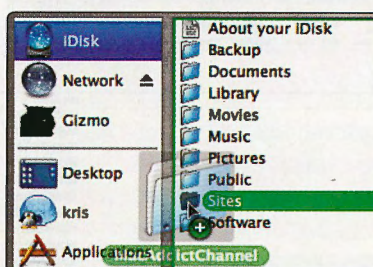
Apple's template takes care of a lot of coding, but to make the channel pull results from only MacAddict.com, scroll down until you see `<trigger path="DATA.action.performSearch" language="XQuery">`. This heads the code block responsible for searching. Replace the entire block between the two `<trigger>` tags with our MacAddict Sherlock Code (on the Disc), using copy and paste. Some of our code is printed in bold in the screen below; these are variables that you can change to point the channel to a different site. The first bold item is the home URL for the site you're searching—it's not MacAddict.com because we use Atomz to power our searches. The second item is the URL to the site's search engine. To find a site's search-engine link, search your favorite site (or on MacAddict.com) and look at the resulting URL; most sites paste your search terms onto the end of the URL.



To make your channel search MacAddict.com, just copy and paste in our prefab sheet.

## 10 Save and Distribute Your Channel

Now that you know how we built some of this code, let's compile this thing. In Xcode, save your work and click the hammer icon to build your project. Then go to Sherlock, click MacAddict Search, and press Command-R to reload the channel. Type *Max* in the Search field and press Return. A results list appears in the top pane. Click any result to view the page in the bottom pane (drag the divider to resize the pane). If it's not working, go back to Xcode and press Command-Shift-R to view the run log, which displays error messages where you've made typos. Correct them, build again, and reload your channel. To distribute it, upload the project to your Web server and pass out the URL, which should look something like `sherlock://www.server name.com/path to file/SherlockChannel.xml?action=add`. To host your channel from a .Mac account, upload the project folder to your iDisk's Sites folder. The URL should look something like `sherlock://homepage.mac.com/account name/name of project folder`.



/SherlockChannel.xml?action=add.  
Happy hunting!

.Mac users can distribute homemade Sherlock channels right from their iDisks.

Johnathon Williams traded his social life for his Mac-Fu a long, long time ago.



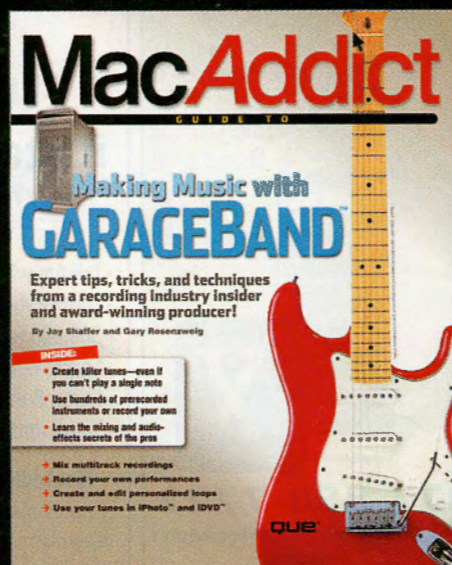
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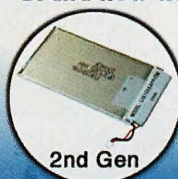
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Photo of Mike Scully's living room by Mike Scully, Dr. Bott Designer.



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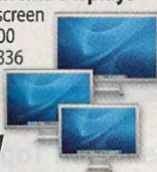
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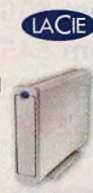
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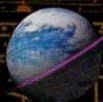
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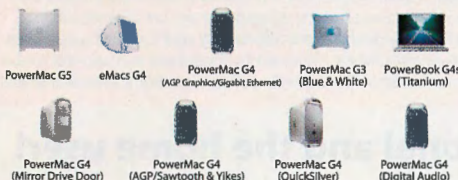
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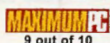
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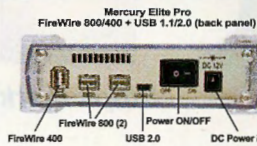
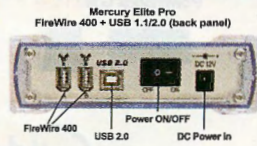
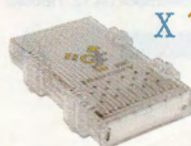
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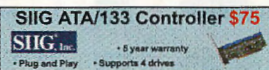
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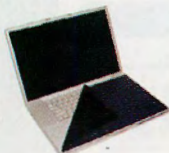
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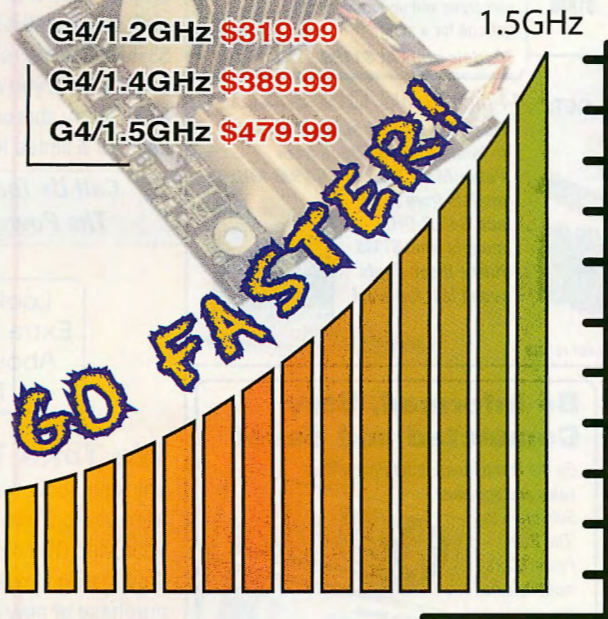
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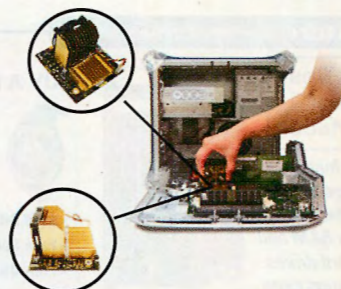
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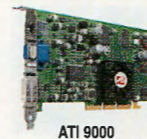
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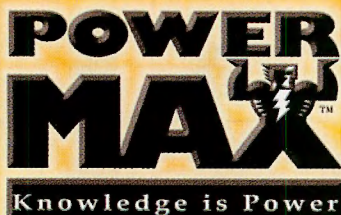
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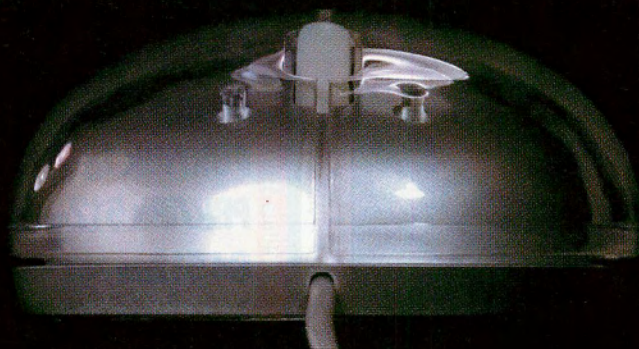
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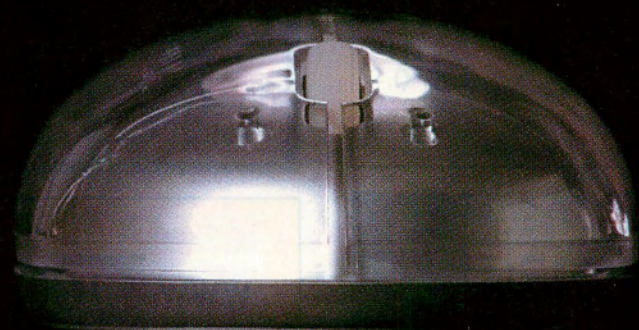


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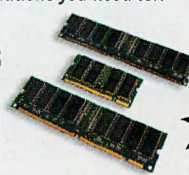
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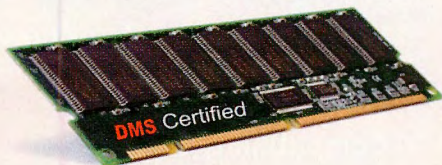
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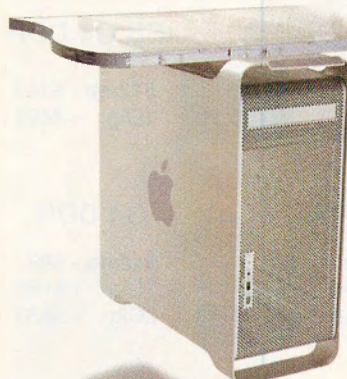
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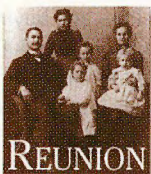
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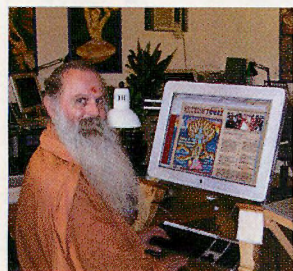
## LETTERS

### DON'T MESS WITH MR. PALMER

I'm writing in response to "Buh-Bye Norton" (Jul/04, p16). With Symantec's decision to drop development of Norton Utilities and SystemWorks for the Mac, I'm going to express my opinion by purchasing only from vendors who still support the Mac in a wide range of areas. So, instead of using Norton's AntiVirus, I'll pick up a copy of Intego's VirusBarrier. If a company isn't interested in fully supporting the Mac, why should we support it?—*Michael Palmer*  
**Hell hath no fury like a Mac addict spurned.—Max**

### CLICHÉS DIE HARD

I thought monks were supposed to take oaths of silence and poverty, wear the same brown robe for decades on end, survive on just bread and water,



Become one with the Unixverse.

and—put simply—live simply! How is it that those *Hinduism Today* dudes ("Of Macs and Monks," Aug/04, p16) have such stoked hardware?

—*Jesse Leo*

**It took the patience of a monk to survive the transition from Mac OS 9 to Mac OS X.—Max**

### GLAD TO HELP

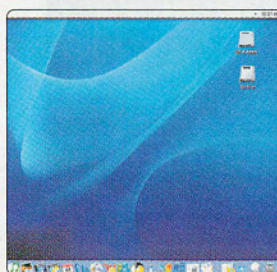
When my copy of Safari turned intolerably sluggish, I tried everything. I reluctantly turned to Explorer, but it refused to remember any of my settings or keychain info from one session to the next—and it had no tabs! Netscape worked but just didn't feel right. Then, out of the blue, came "When Bugs Attack" (Aug/04, p18). I followed your suggestions in the "Safari's Stalling" bug fix (#34), and my problems vanished! Thanks, your publication is the best of the bunch!—*Mark Phelps*

### BUY THIS GUY A MAC!

I'm obsessed with Macs, but unfortunately I can't afford one. I am really fed up with Windows, both its look and the system itself. Just during the first year, I had to send my PC back to the manufacturer twice—for a month each time. My heart couldn't handle looking at Windows anymore—it just reminded me of all the mistakes I made

### RECENTLY SIGHTED

After spending several weeks looking online for an official Apple flag and finding nothing, I resorted to making this one from white nylon and the silver aluminized material used on ironing boards. Looks official to me!—*Corey Roberts*



The best-looking Windows desktop we've ever seen.

in my life—and buying a PC was one of them. All that was left for me to do was make my laptop look like a Mac—and thanks to some Web help I managed to do it.—*Roland*

**Tragic! Trust us, Roland, if we had a PowerBook to spare, we'd send it to you.—Max**

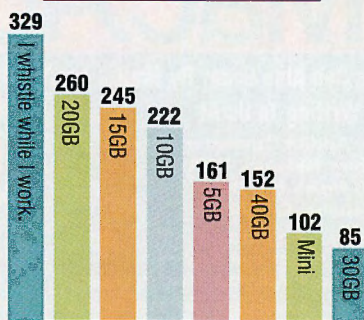
### MEMORY ERROR

In #22 of "When Bugs Attack" (Aug/04, p18), you incorrectly said that Li-Ion batteries don't suffer from the same type of memory effect that old NiMH batteries did. I believe you meant NiCD. NiMH batteries don't suffer from any memory effect, although when compared to Li-Ion batteries, NiMH batteries tend to self-discharge quicker—they die just sitting on the shelf. NiMH batteries also weigh quite a bit more than Li-Ion batteries, hence the switch.—*Ryan McLean*  
**We got our cadmium mixed up with our metal hydride—thanks for setting us straight, Ryan.—Max**

## Survey Says

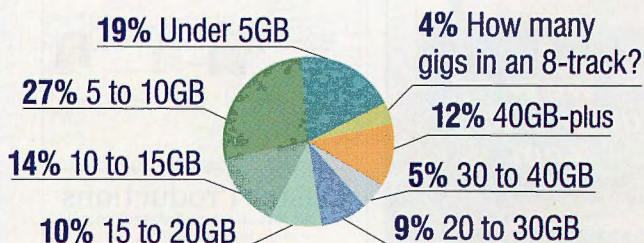
Here are the results of our June 2004 survey. Go to [www.macaddict.com](http://www.macaddict.com) each month for a new online poll.

What iPod(s) do you own?



1,556 responses

How many gigs of music do you have on your iPod(s)?



1,366 respondents



## WANNA BET?

"AppleCare: Worth the Cost?" (Jul/04, p12) was insightful and accurate—but you missed the fundamental notion of the deal: You're betting the manufacturer that your new toy will fail, and it's betting it won't. Although there are certainly situations in which warranties make good sense, statistically speaking, extended ones are not a good deal for lower-risk consumers.

—Michael Gibbs

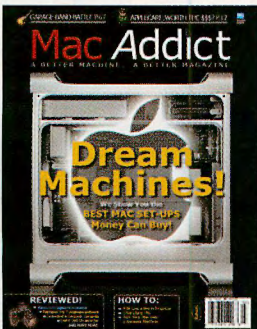
Statistics don't count when your iMac's LCD display goes south. We still like AppleCare.—Max

## MACADDICT MAKEOVER

I wanted to learn InDesign CS in the hopes that it might convince my current employer to switch from Quark, but I needed a project. There lying in front of me was the July 2004 issue of MacAddict—so I decided to give the cover a makeover. Not so bad for learning InDesign CS in only a few hours. Anyway, just thought I'd share it with you...now, can I have a job? (Just kidding...not really.)

—Eric P. Mullen

Our art director, Mark Rosenthal, can feel your hot breath on his neck. (Just kidding...not really.)—Max



Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

## A MOTHER'S LOVE

My son Joe's first car had no CD player until—using things around the house—he mounted his old clamshell iBook onto his dashboard. All that's on it now are iTunes and a few essentials, and he's able to unmount it from the dashboard to keep his music safe. What a creative kid!—Pamela Ponte

Pamela, are you trying to embarrass poor Joe?—Max



Luckily, this old iBook doesn't have a DVD drive.

## GETTING HIGH WITH IPOD

I flew back from a backpacking trip in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge on Yukon Air Service. Bush pilot Kirk Sweetsir has an iPod mounted on the dash of his Cessna 185, and, on request, pipes his iTunes to his passengers via headsets. We listened to John Lee Hooker and Muddy Waters as we flew from the Marsh Fork of the Canning River to Arctic Village, over the most beautiful mountains in North America.—Jim DeWitt

Very cool—as long as the tunes aren't limited to "Up, Up and Away," "Flip, Flop, and Fly," "Flying Below the Radar," or "Let the Eagle Soar."—Max



First BMWs, now Cessnas.

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Deadline for entry: October 31, 2004.

Contest results will appear in our Feb/05 issue.

**Contest Rules** The judges will be MacAddict editors and will base their decision on 33 percent humor, 33 percent originality, and 33 percent creativity. All entries must be received no later than October 31, 2004, with the winner announced around January 2005. By entering this contest, you agree that Future Network USA may use your name, likeness, and Web site for promotional purposes without further payment. All prizes will be awarded, and no minimum number of entries is required. Prizes won by minors will be awarded to their parents or legal guardians. Future Network USA is not responsible for damages or expenses the winners might incur as a result of this contest or the receipt of a prize, and winners are responsible for income taxes based on the value of the prize received. A list of winners may also be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Future Network USA c/o MacAddict Contest, 150 North Hill Dr., Ste. 40, Brisbane, CA 94005. This contest is limited to residents of the United States. No purchase necessary, void in Arizona, Maryland, Vermont, Puerto Rico, and where prohibited by law.

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# A BUMPER CROP OF LAWSUITS

As a member of Apple's legal team, you'd never be laid off for lack of work. Most recently, Apple has been making threatening noises aimed at RealNetworks' Harmony Technology, which allows you to play music from Real's subscription-based Rhapsody music service on the iPod. If it finds itself in court with Apple, Real will join a list of litigants either suing or being sued by Apple that's as long as your arm. In fact, battles like these are inspiring commentary on America's favorite bulletin boards: bumper stickers.





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